

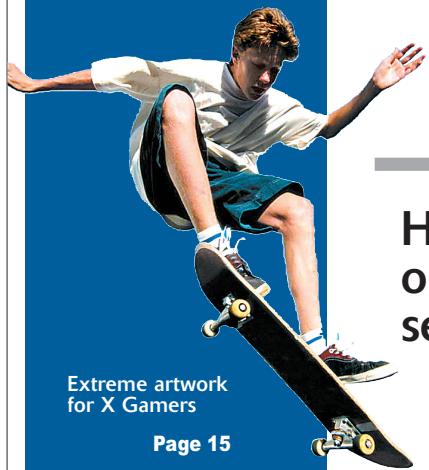
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for X Gamers

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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



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Walk the lonely road with Kiarostami



After an exhibition tour of China's five cities, Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami is presenting his solo exhibition in Beijing, which includes 20 films, 84 photographs and *Walking with the Wind*, his poetry collection.

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New wind power added to city's grid

By Jackie Zhang

The first 33 of the Guanting wind farm's 70-meter windmills have finished construction and been connected to the city's power grid. The windmills began to generate power after Spring Festival.

Construction on the second phase of 43 windmills is expected to begin soon.

Li Yuehua, chief engineer of the wind farm project, said another 10 windmills will be built on the south bank of Guanting reservoir. "On the north bank, another 33 wind-

mills will be built," he said.

The wind farm's only fences are in place to keep tourists away from the windmills. All windmill electrical wires are buried under the earth.

Masses of vineyards, fruit trees and corn fields line the banks of the reservoir. "It is a nice place for people to come for a holiday in summer. The windmills will be quite a sight," Yin Zhiyong, wind farm project manager, said.

"The wind farm supplements wind resources in Beijing's power grid. Although the 100 million

kilowatts/hour of electricity the windmills generate is but a fraction of the city's needed 60 billion kilowatts/hour of electricity, the farm has a special place in the capital's environmental protection," Li Yuehua said.

Because windmill construction is expensive - 10 million yuan per unit - the price of windmill-generated electricity is high as well. Twice the price of thermal-generated electricity.

However, a visit to the windmills is still free. The Badaling Expressway leads directly to the Guanting wind farm.



On rainy or windy days, visitors need to be careful to keep a distance from the windmill, Yin said.

In 2004, the municipal government started to experiment in Guanting. After a two-year survey of the area, it was found to have considerable wind and an advantageous geological structure, Xue Heng, a researcher from the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences, said.

The wind farm broke ground in October 2004.

Photo by Lucky Jia

New rules due for baths, spas

By Li Fenghua

The first national standard for bath enterprises will take effect during the first half of this year, a China National Spa Committee (CSPA) spokesman said.

Public bath enterprises must post notices and forbid customers with venereal and other contagious diseases from entering the water, according to the "Operating condition and classification of bathing trade" by CSPA, a committee of the General Chamber of Commerce.

According to the document, a bathing enterprise is any site providing bath, spa, sauna, spring, swimming pool or foot massage services to customers. Such places must offer lockers to safeguard customer's possessions while in the bath. Changing rooms must also provide ample seating.

The water must also follow a strict cleansing and sterilization system. Bathing articles must be sterilized immediately after each use, and a wardrobe, if provided, must be sterilized twice per week. The bath house itself must be sterilized daily.

Employees must master foreign languages if the bath house services foreign customers. They must also be trained in bathing industry standards, sterilizing methods, and be familiar with bathing safety and how to handle accidents.

All employees must have regular health checks and be issued health certificates. Bathing services are forbidden to admit customers if any employee has dysentery, typhoid fever, hepatitis or dermatitis.

Bath enterprises will be graded from one star to five stars. The more stars a bath enterprise has, the better quality it will provide.

A five-star bathing enterprise must have a business measuring 8,000 square meters or more, and must provide more than five bathing items. Foreign money exchange and airplane and railway bookings must be provided in a five-star bathing enterprise.

No chance for China's Jiaozi contamination



There is almost no chance the Chinese-made dumplings that made 10 people sick in Japan were intentionally contaminated during production, Wei Chuanzhong, deputy director of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, told a press conference in Beijing Wednesday.

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

Overtime earnings less this year

By Li Fenghua

According to the newly adopted methods issued recently by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, the overtime pay for the official holidays such as spring festival, May Day and weekends this year is a little lower than past years.

This year, the official holiday was lengthened from 10 days to 11 days, but the established number of monthly pay days rose from 20.92 days to

21.75 days.

"These factors combined mean the average daily salary is lower than in past years", Jiang Junlu, president of the Beijing Association of Labor and Social Security Law.

Holiday overtime pay is three times the daily pay for the first three days. All following days are two times the daily pay.

Assuming a Beijing resident's average monthly salary was 3008 yuan, the first three days he would

be paid 414.9 yuan (3008 divided by 21.75 then multiplied by 3). He would earn 276.6 yuan on each of the remaining four days.

In this example, then the total overtime pay for Spring Festival would be 2351.1, down 93.4 yuan, or about 3 percent, from last year.

"However, with this method, overtime pay can be calculated the same no matter how the official holidays are adjusted," Jiang said.

Smoking 'cool' with capital's ladies

By Zhang Dongya

Despite a decrease in the average smoking rate of the capital's citizens, more of Beijing's ladies are reaching for a light, according to a report issued by Think Tank Research Center for Health Development, a government-backed tobacco control organization.

The rate of women who smoke rose to 10.39 percent in 2004, compared to 8.76 percent in 1997. The data comes from a study conducted by Cui Xiaobo, a professor at Capital Medical University.

Three studies during the past decade showed the rate among Beijing citizens fell to 23 percent, compared to about 35 percent in 1997. However, the rate of women smokers grew as male smokers declined. Most women smokers interviewed said they thought it was cool and a way to release pressure, according to Cui's study.

Teachers and students in Capital Medical University conducted a survey on revision of the smoking-ban regulations. The group interviewed men on the street, health workers and restaurant workers.

About 75 percent of respondents wanted to ban smoking in the workplace, and about 69 percent agreed to ban smoke in restaurants, bars and entertainment venues.

As many as 71 percent of respondents said the government should discourage cigarette use by raising taxes on tobacco products.

The Regulations to Ban Smoking in Public Places in Beijing will be officially implemented this spring, according to some reports.

Brief news

New rails to launch

Yunnan Province is speeding up its construction of four new international railways which will link it to Vietnam, Myanmar and Thailand, provincial government officials said. The rails which will link Kunming, Yuxi and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam are scheduled for completion next year.

Plastic bags draft ready

The standardization office has issued draft regulations covering plastic shopping bags and solicited public opinion on the subject. Bags will cost shoppers money starting June 1, and they will be subject to stricter production standards as well, a Standardization Administration of China spokesman said.

Sexology assoc banned

China Sexology Association (CSA) was ordered to cease operation for six months for profiting from its activities, a Ministry of Civil Affairs spokesman said.

Harsh winter storms kill 107

Damage resulting from prolonged low temperatures, freezing rain and heavy snow during the last month in southern China killed 107 people and left eight missing as of Tuesday, Civil Affairs Minister Li Xueju said Wednesday.

(By Han Manman)

Man's 57-day fast breaks record

By Han Manman

A Tianjin man ended his 57-day fast last Saturday, during which he confined himself to a glass box living only on water in the city's Water Park to break the world record.

Li Zhenjia, the man, broke records set by US magician David Blaine and herbalist doctor Chen Jianmin of Sichuan Province, both of whom survived 44 days and 49 days without eating.

Li started the stunt on Decem-

ber 15 and needed assistance when he walked out of the glass booth on Saturday morning.

Li intended to survive on water for 60 days, but doctors decided to stop him due to health concerns with three days left. He was transported to a local hospital to recuperate.

The organizer said Li's latest physical checkup showed his weight dropped 26 kilograms to about 82 kilograms, and his white blood cell count and urinary

system had abnormal problems.

Li said he missed his goal because of low temperatures inside the box and noises from a nearby ski run and firecracker noise during Spring Festival celebrations.

His fast raised 30,000 yuan, or about US \$4,200, for the nearby Tianjin Charity Association.

Lawyers oversaw the fast to guarantee authenticity of the new world record, and said they examined the water Li drank during his fast. Park visitors had a clear view of

the 24-square-meter cubicle. Doctors entered the cubicle every 10 days for a health check, and kept in contact with him by telephone.

Unlike previous fast challengers who sleep through the fast, Li continued to write and sculpt during daylight hours.

Li is obsessed with traditional Chinese medicine and started his fast challenges 12 years ago.

His longest fast trial was last year, when he survived 81 days without food.

Foreign national found in Shenzhen crime ring

By Wang Chuyang

Police busted four deaf-mute thieves in Shenzhen, last October 18.

Among the robbers was Korean Shin Dae-Ho, who was sentenced by the Shenzhen Intermediate People's Court to 18 months in prison recently.

Investigators said it was surprising to find foreign nationals in local gangs.

Shenzhen's problem with deaf-mute crime rings has continued for more than a decade, Chen Weiquan, a police officer in the city's Dongmen station, said.

In 1992, many deaf or mute people began to arrive in the city with migrants seeking work. Communication impairments made it difficult for them to get by, and hard times forced many to turn to theft.

Since then, they have grown in both size and aggression, Chen said.

Due to disability, most crime committed by deaf and mute people is limited to theft and pickpocketing. Gangs run simulated training sessions, often with brutal punishments for members who fail to meet the rigid requirements, Chen said.

Courts tend to be more lenient in their handling of crime committed by disabled people.

Most arrested deaf people refuse to give testimony and avoid questions about age and identification, he said.

Since the age of criminal suspects directly affects sentencing, false statements interfere with investigation. Suspects who are under 16 are released rather than sentenced.

Cameras added to police uniforms

By Li Fenghua

Officers in the Xishan branch of Kunming's Public Security Bureau (PSB) will be getting a new fashion accessory soon: hats with mounted cameras.

The cameras, which connect to a mobile storage device, can record three hours of video. Bureau authorities said the cameras will assist in evidence collection and deter surprise assaults.

Kunming PSB officers said the cameras will guarantee their work is fair and accurate.

Collecting evidence is a difficult job when accidents or disputes occur. People at the scene flee when the police arrive or assault the officers, police said. Without records of assailants' faces, it is impossible to prosecute them.

"If there were cameras to record the scene, no one could escape the legal consequences of his actions," an officer, who refused to give his name, said.

"The system is still being tested, and will be expanded to include the whole city if it is a success," the Kunming PSB officer said.



Photo provided by Dushi Shibao

Parents seek dates, mates for children

By Annie Wei

A thousand participants headed for a large-scale blind date event at the Shijingshan Park temple fair this Spring Festival. Rather than draw singles, the event attracted parents to check out the posted personal ads.

A Mr Li and Mrs Wang went to the event seeking suitors for their daughter who is studying for her PhD in the US. The couple met a Mrs Bai, who wants to find a girlfriend for her son.

After meeting up, the two started talking about their children's backgrounds. When Mrs Bai heard that Mr Li worked in the army, she started sizing up the couple and guessing what their daughter must be like.

Another Mr Ma looked for a girlfriend for his 29-year-old son and exchanged phone numbers with many mothers. He said he had been to several blind-date events, the personal ads usually did not match the person. He said meet-

ing the parents was a faster way to learn about their children.

According to a survey of Chinese youth population development done by China Youth Research Center and Renmin University, the country's population of bachelors and spinsters is on the rise.

The study showed that many young people are shy or uncomfortable with blind-dating events. Parents have started to attend in their children's stead. But the parents are after more than dates:

many are looking for mates.

According to the same survey, the ratio of male to female births remains uneven, and that, with age, men face increased difficulty in finding a spouse.

This places additional strain on women, according to the survey, who could face an increased risk of victimization if the population gap continues to grow unchecked. Adult men who are not sexually satisfied tend to turn to violence and crime, it found.

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Chinese photos win at photo contest

By Han Manman/Yang Shu

Three Chinese photographers were winners at the prestigious World Press Photo Contest, the Amsterdam-based contest organizer announced last Friday.

Fang Qianhua, from *Nangfang City News*, took first prize in the Nature Singles category. This also was the second time the photographer had won this award.

Fei Maohua of the *Xinhua News Agency* won second prize in the Sports Action Stories category. His award-winning pictures, 12 in total, show some of the most intense, emotional and beautiful moments at various sports venues, featuring desolate deserts to snow-covered mountains. Qi Xiaolong from *Tianjin Daily* captured the third prize in the Arts and Entertainment Singles category.

The contest, which started in 1955, was traditionally dominated by Western photographers. In recent years participants from developing countries have been on the rise. Chinese photographers have won a number of prizes in the past several years.

This year saw some 400 Chinese participants in the contest, second only to the US with 748.

A color picture by British photographer Tim Hetherington showing a US soldier resting at a bunker in Afghanistan won the top prize at the contest, according to a press release on the contest's official website.

This year, a record number of photographers from 125 countries and regions took part in the competition, one of the most prestigious annual international competitions in press photography.

A total of 5,019 photographers submitted 80,536 images to the contest organizer. Almost 20 percent of the participants in this year's contest were from Asia.

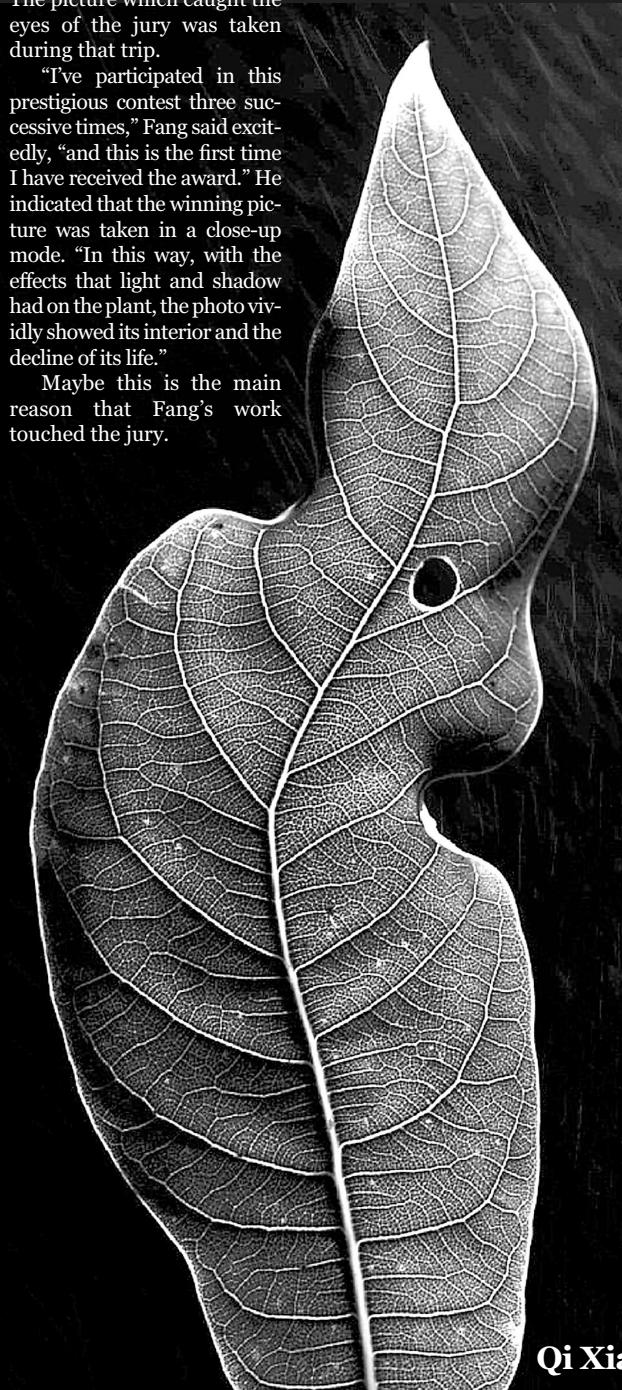
The jury gave prizes in 10 theme categories to 59 photographers of 23 nationalities. The prize-winning pictures are presented in a traveling exhibition that will be displayed in about 95 cities in 45 countries, starting in Amsterdam at the end of April.

Fang Qianhua: prize-winning plant

"It was the *Nangfang City News* that provided the opportunity for me," Fang replied in a modest tone. In September 2007, he went to The Three Gorges to take photos of the local vegetation. The picture which caught the eyes of the jury was taken during that trip.

"I've participated in this prestigious contest three successive times," Fang said excitedly, "and this is the first time I have received the award." He indicated that the winning picture was taken in a close-up mode. "In this way, with the effects that light and shadow had on the plant, the photo vividly showed its interior and the decline of its life."

Maybe this is the main reason that Fang's work touched the jury.



Qi Xiaolong: A picture is worth a 1,000 words

Qi Xiaolong is familiar with the WPP. In 2003, he participated in the contest and was awarded third prize in the Science and Technology Singles category. Five years later, he won the prize again. Much to the amazement of his peers, the subject of his award-winning picture was not science and technology at which he is an expert, but traditional culture.

"I'm a storytelling enthusiast," Qi said, "For five years I've longed to represent it



British photographer Tim Hetherington won the WPP top prize. Photos provided by WPP



Fei Maohua: a sporting chance

"I have been a sports photo journalist for only two and a half years," Fei Maohua said calmly when talking about his experience, he said that in the very beginning, it was Africa that fanned my flame of inspiration. "In 2003, I was selected to be one of two TV journalists to work in Africa. To my surprise, our agency equipped us with the most up-to-date camera, the Cannon 300D. In Africa, when confronted with distinguished landscapes, I realized how important a good camera was. At that moment, I realized my passion for photography." Two years later, he began his life as a professional photographer in the photo department at the *Xinhua News Agency*.

This was the second time he had competed in the WPP. "I prefer photo stories." As in the previous year, he entered his work in the Sports Action Stories category. Asked why, the modest man answered, "It's mainly because I can hardly take an outstanding single photo." "Obviously, stories can better reveal the average level of pictures." What he said later supported his confidence as he was labeled "Master Fei" by his peers.



His twelve award-winning pictures display some of the most intense, emotional and beautiful moments at various sports venues with varied backgrounds from desolate deserts to snow-covered mountains.

"I'm now appreciating the pictures which won first prize," Fei finally said, "I must work hard to keep pace with the latest trends in world sports photography."

long after the scene was captured by Qi in March 2007, this tea-house was torn down. "Maybe such form of entertainment is considered old fashioned now but as a photographer, I have the responsibility to record history."

Regarding the reason why this picture won the award, Qi said that his work successfully conveyed a cultural atmosphere. "Atmosphere is essential to a picture and is often neglected."

Beijing Olympics to spread Chinese language

(India Times) – The government hopes to use the coming Olympic Games as a launchpad to spread knowledge of Chinese language among sports lovers all over the world.

"This (the Olympics) offers an excellent opportunity to put Chinese civilization on display and to expand the influence of Chinese linguistic culture," the People's Daily, the official newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party, wrote in an editorial.

Chinese language became a tool to spread diplomacy and influence years back with the establishment of Confucius Institutes, modeled on France's

Alliance Française. There are 226 Confucius Institutes in 66 countries.

The Hanyu Pinyin system, which uses Latin characters to represent the pronunciation of Chinese characters, is an accepted form of communication even among literate Chinese people. Government signs often use both Chinese characters and Pinyin. The system has been popularized in schools, newspapers, TV and advertising.

The government also renamed the "Friendlies," the five mascots for the Beijing 2008 Olympics, as "Fuwa," a literal Chinese pinyin translation. The new name has been widely accepted.

Expert comment

Hanyu Pinyin now serves as a communication tool and has become a bridge linking China to the world, Wang Dengfeng, vice-chairman of the National Language Committee and director of language department of the Education Ministry, said.

"About a billion Chinese citizens have mastered Pinyin, which plays an important role in both Chinese language education and international communication," he said.

Pinyin has been extensively used by both Chinese and non-Chinese to learn the language since the first revision was adopted at the Fifth Session of

the First National People's Congress on February 11, 1958.

The government has made an energetic effort to popularize Pinyin since it came out with a National Common Language Law to provide a legal basis for its application in 2001.

It also published the Xinhua Dictionary and Modern Chinese Dictionary, which establish standards on the use of Pinyin to spell names and places.

Chinese Braille, which is based on Pinyin, has helped many Chinese blind people learn to read and write.

(Agencies)

Anti-piracy efforts pay off

(Economic Times) – The country's anti-piracy efforts are beginning to yield results; the number of firms using licensed software has risen sharply in recent months.

The number of firms using properly-licensed software rose to 2,300 by February 7, up from 1,500 last December.

A 53 percent jump has been reported in the number of companies using properly-licensed software since stricter anti-piracy laws came into effect in April 2006, the National Copyright Administration (NCA) said.

Following attacks over rampant piracy, the country launched a crackdown and ordered authorities to buy computers with pre-installed legitimate software.

It also stipulated that all domestic and imported computers be sold with pre-installed

legitimate software to prevent piracy at the source.

Some 3,600 enterprises came under the eye of central and provincial governments, with over 1,100 companies being slapped with penalties for using pirated software, Liu Binjie, director of the General Administration, said last December.

Quoting the Supreme Peoples Court data, Xinhua news agency reported that 769 Intellectual Property Right cases were handled by Chinese courts in 2006 and 1,212 offenders were prosecuted, an increase of about 52 percent and 62 percent, respectively, from 2005.

The court also lowered the threshold to prosecute people for making or selling counterfeit intellectual property products and ordered stricter penalties for IPR violators.

Expert comment

By Huang Daohen

The government has consistently worked against piracy, destroying pirated books and DVDs and cracking down on peddlers selling counterfeit products, Wang Jingchuan, commissioner of the State Intellectual Property Office, said.

It attacked the problem late, but has taken an "innovative road" to administrative and judicial protection of intellectual property rights (IPR).

"We started late, but we developed fast," Wang said.

The country enacted new programs to protect IPR following the 17th Sino-US Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade in 2006.

According to the new plan, special courts for IPR cases were established across the country, including 172 appellate courts and 140 collegial panels.

The Supreme Court issued last year some new judicial interpretations, which lowered

the threshold for prosecution of those making or selling counterfeit products.

As part of a crackdown on pirated software, the government ordered municipal and local authorities to buy computers with pre-installed legitimate software and required all domestic and imported computers to be sold with legitimate software pre-installed.

Despite the success, online piracy still poses a challenge, Wang said.

Internet copyright infringement is still very prevalent in the country," he said.

He said illegal downloading of movies and music is the most common form of online piracy.

Wang attributed the situation to rapid development of the Internet industry and light punishment for violators, and pledged to work more closely with both the justice and telecommunications authorities to curb infringements.



Spring Stunts shock London

A BMX (bicycle motocross) stunt rider performs on an open top bus, watched by Olympic 400m medallist Iwan Thomas (left) and former World and Olympic triple jumper Jonathan Edwards (right) during a celebration for the third "China In London" season and the Chinese New Year on February 10, in London, England.

The rat, the first of 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac, is considered an honor to be born under.

Photo by Liu Ying

5,000 illegal immigrants sent back

(ANN) – Customs officers stopped 5,000 illegal immigrants from entering China last year, a Ministry of Public Security official said.

Zhang Chongde, deputy director of the ministry's frontier defense management bureau, said that 5,000 foreign nationals had overstayed their visa periods or were found to have entered the country illegally.

"The number is more than in previous years, but the situation is still controllable," Zhang said.

The crackdown rate on illegal immigrants had never been better in the last 15 years, he said.

However, 4,000-5,000 Chinese nationals continue to emigrate to other countries and regions illegally each year, he said.

Shaolin Temple plans Aus branch

(Bloomberg) – The Shaolin Monastery, the 1,500-year-old birthplace of kung fu, plans to spend US \$631 million to open a branch in Australia, the South China Morning Post reported, citing Abbot Shi Yongxin.

The monastery is waiting for government approval for the project in Shoalhaven, New South Wales, and plans a similar project in Vancouver this year, the newspaper said.

The overseas temples are part of a business portfolio including martial arts performances, film production, medicinal products and food created by the monastery, located on Mount Song in Henan Province.

Shaolin has licensed its name to a Taiwanese online gaming company and to a souvenir-retailing chain called Buddha, which will target Olympic tourists, the newspaper reported.

Valentine's Day viruses on the tech horizon

(cbn.com) – Anti-virus authorities have warned computer users to guard against Valentine's Day computer viruses.

The viruses, especially "Vbs_Valentin.A," are spread chiefly through email and instant messaging networks such as MSN and QQ, the Tianjin-based China National Computer Virus Emergency Response Center warned.

Other viruses like "Wormblebla.B" and "VBS-IILOveyou" infect computers if users open infected email disguised as Valentine's Day greetings.

The center has warned users to be wary of unidentified emails, especially those with Spanish characters.

It also alerted Internet shoppers to not click on bogus discount messages from online stores, which may be used to spread viruses.

Gov to issue guidelines on bankruptcy law

Supplementary laws to the current bankruptcy law have entered the legislative process and should be passed soon, Xinhua news agency reported, citing the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC).

The Bankruptcy Act for Banking Institutions will introduce more specific guidelines to the Law of the People's Republic of China on Bankruptcy promulgated last June, the CBRC said.

The State Council, or cabinet, the National Development and Reform Commission and the CBRC are working on a new law to establish a deposit insurance scheme to strengthen banking security.

The sequence will be to first develop a deposit insurance plan, then set up a deposit insurance fund and finally incorporate an independent insurance deposit company.

In the meantime, a strategic coordination mechanism between the central bank and relevant supervisory authorities will be formed to ensure a smooth process for initiating and maintaining the deposit insurance system.

Bankruptcy in the banking system has previously been referred to as "administrative closure," as banks, which are mostly state-owned, rely on the central

bank for bail-outs.

Analysts said with the opening-up of the banking industry, a market exit mechanism is indispensable. Supporting financial institutions burdened with highly risky assets, huge debts or operating difficulties will keep risks from spilling.

By locking up individual losses, financial security is better protected, they said.

(Agencies)

Is Yahoo! worth \$40 a share?

Though Yahoo! Inc has formally rejected Microsoft's unsolicited buyout offer, many expect the Web portal to fall into the clutches of the software giant – at a higher price.

How much Microsoft can – and should – pay to land its prey is another question, given that the US \$40-billion-plus deal is already the largest proposed high-tech merger ever.

Several Wall Street analysts predict that Yahoo! will eventually be gobbled up by Microsoft, despite the former's resistance to the deal so far.

Some large Yahoo! shareholders believe the same. In a letter to clients on Tuesday, well-known mutual fund manager Bill Miller of Legg Mason – Yahoo!'s second-largest shareholder – said the merger is likely, but that Microsoft will have to enhance its offer to close the deal.

Yahoo! formally rejected the offer on Monday, saying the price of US \$31 per share significantly undervalues its business. The company is reportedly evaluating other potential options – including a search-outsourcing deal with Google.

Another bidder emerged on Wednesday while Yahoo is reportedly exploring an alliance with Rupert Murdoch's media conglomerate News Corp.

\$40-a-share reasonable

The main question on the minds of Wall Street analysts is, At what price could Microsoft secure the support of enough Yahoo! shareholders to sway its management?

Yahoo! has already said it would find a higher bid more acceptable. Several media outlets, including The Wall Street Journal and New York Times, cited unnamed sources close to Yahoo!'s board of directors who indicated that the company would find US \$40 a share a more acceptable price.

Yahoo!'s shares have not traded above the US \$40 mark since January 2006.

Microsoft's US \$31 per-share offer represented a 62 percent premium over Yahoo!'s share price at the time the announcement was made. The stock was trading in the mid-US \$30 range



Whether or not the Redmond giant will swallow Yahoo! is drawing world attention.

Xinhua Photo

as recently as late October before a sharp sell-off began pressuring tech stocks across the board amid growing worries about the slowing economy and its potential impact on the sector.

Given that the negotiation has been playing out in public, few expected Yahoo! to simply accept Microsoft's first offer.

"We believe that this weekend's news signals that no competing bidder is likely to emerge, and that negotiations have officially entered the coun-

teroffer stage," RBC Capital analyst Jordan Rohan wrote in a note to clients Monday.

Microsoft's discipline

Others worry that Microsoft could end up paying too much

to land Yahoo!, given its history with other acquisitions. The company laid out US \$240 million last year to nab a 1.6 percent ownership stake in Facebook – implying an overall valuation for the social networking site at US \$15 billion.

"To the extent Yahoo!'s board is amenable, we suspect a transaction at up to US \$34-35 per share could be agreed to very quickly and would be constructive for both companies' share prices," the Bernstein report read.

(Agencies)

Endesa to purchase carbon credits in China

(Energy Business Review) – Spanish electricity utility Endesa has agreed to purchase 100 percent of the certified reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through to 2012 in three projects to be carried out by Chinese firm Jiangsu Shagang, which will involve cutting carbon dioxide emissions by 5 million tons during that period.

Jiangsu Shagang is developing three projects which will use residual gas from its steel production process to supply its own energy needs. The residual gas recovered has a low heating value and, at present, is burnt and expelled directly into the atmosphere.

The implementation of these projects is expected to not only support environmental developments of the local economy by preventing carbon dioxide emissions, but also to boost the energy supplied by the Jiangsu network.

Volvo to recall 1,502 S40 sedans

By Huang Daohen

Volvo will recall 1,502 imported S40 sedans in China as part of a global recall effort prompted by technical problems with the fuel pumps, according to the Web site of the national product quality regulator.

The problem lies in the fuel pump's electronic modules, which monitor the pump.

The modules run the risk of causing corrosion, according to a company statement posted on the Web site of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

The recall affects vehicles made between September 15, 2004, and August 22, 2005.

China Mobile announces support for LTE

(XFN-Asia) – China Mobile lent its support to long term evolution (LTE), the wireless broadband standard poised to become the flagship 4G technology, on Tuesday, the Financial Times reported, citing people familiar with the situation.

LTE is being developed to allow faster downloads, and one of its key attractions is that it works on infrastructure already in place across most of the world's mobile networks.

Vodafone CEO Arun Sarin said earlier this week that the UK group would join China Mobile and Verizon Wireless to promote LTE, the Times reported.

The companies' support for LTE suggests that it will emerge as the leading 4G technology ahead of WiMax or Ultra Mobile, it reported.

Sex photos hang up Hong Kong

By He Jianwei

Edison Chen, Hong Kong actor and singer, who is currently involved in a sex photo scandal, will return to Hong Kong this weekend from the US to cooperate with the police to investigate the case and to hold a press conference to discuss their authenticity and how the leak began, Chinanews.com reported Wednesday.

Starting at the end of January, a netizen began to post nude photos of some of Hong Kong's most prominent young actors and singers, including Edison Chen, Gillian Chung and Bobo Chan, and photos of them having sex with Edison Chen.

The Emperor Entertainment Group (EEG), one of Hong Kong's leading record labels and some of the actors' agents,

sought to file lawsuits against those who posted and disseminated the pictures.

Currently, eight female artists are involved in the scandal and nine suspects have been arrested.

Crime Assistant Commissioner of Police Vincent Wong said somebody took Chen's computer to a repair shop, where the photos were found on the hard drive and were distributed to others. As many as 1,300 photos have been seized – most of them are obscene.

It was reported that the photos were first seen on an overseas Internet forum, bcoms.net, but became widely circulated when they reached the city's main forum.

The pictures quickly attracted attention from netizens in Hong Kong, Taiwan

and the Chinese mainland. On the Chinese mainland's Tianya forum, there was one post drawing as many as 2.5 million page views and more than 13,000 comments covering 72 pages.

On February 11, Gillian Chung met the media in Hong Kong and said she regretted the impact that the incident had caused.

"I admit that I was very naive and silly in the past, but I have grown up now," she said.

Worrying about the negative impact on teenagers, on February 13, Donald Tsang, chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, urged the police to crackdown on this type of crime and decided to carry out moral education classes for teenagers.



Comment

Look out for number one

It is good for her (Chung). Adults must be responsible for their actions. As for the parents, they should tell their children, especially their daughters, to protect themselves.

– Liza Wang, senior Hong Kong actress

It is painful for the people involved in the scandal. It has called attention to the fact that females must protect themselves.

– Mai Peiquan, director of Hong Kong Sex Culture Society

Media's main responsibility

Most media outlets dealt with this event in an appropriate manner. Only a few printed the inappropriate photos. However, most of the media only cared about the development of the event. They should go deeper to examine the social problems.

– Clement So, Director from the Chinese University of Hong Kong

The Hong Kong government department received 71 complaints from citizens about the photos in newspapers and magazines. On the one hand, the media should satisfy the citizens' right to know, but still most bear the responsibility for the social impact.

– an editorial from Wen Wei Po

Laws need updating

Both the people who distributed the photos and the people who clicked on the Web sites should think on their shame and where our morals lie.

– Wei Bo, a scholar in Beijing

The authority will reconsider the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance. The definitions of 'releasing' must be clarified and then the police will have a clearer idea of how to enforce the law.

– Eric Cheung, assistant law professor at The University of Hong Kong



Edison Chen caught in a sex photo scandal.

Photos by Wen Di

Chinese tourists stranded in the Philippines

By Huang Daohen

A Chinese tourist's refusal to change his seat on a flight from Manila to Shanghai triggered a dispute last Sunday, causing a tour group of 32 people to be stranded in the Philippines.

The Philippine Airlines flight had planned to take off at 8:40 pm that day heading for the Shanghai Pudong International Airport, one of the tourists who would only give her name as Chen told the Zhejiang based City Express news.

After all the passengers were on board, a stewardess approached the passengers in the 11th row where the security exits were located. She asked, in English, if the Chinese passengers who sat next to the security doors would change their seats with the foreign passengers who were English native speakers, for the sake of easy communication in case of an emergency.

Some of the passengers were understanding and willingly changed their seats, but one middle-aged man who sat next to the security door protested. "Why should we change our seats with the foreigners when our boarding pass promises us this seat," he said, adding that the aircraft should provide a stewardess who understands Chinese.

A foreign passenger nearby joined in the conversation, Chen said. The middle-aged man, who did not understand English, thought the foreigner was being an unfriendly adversary and together with two other passengers argued with the foreigner. The commotion was quelled by surrounding passengers.

The foreign passenger located the captain immediately and protested saying that the three Chinese passengers should get off the plane as they presented a threat to the safety of the other passengers.

The three passengers were required to disembark after the captain contacted the ground police. To Chen's surprise, the entire group complied.

The plane took off at about 10:50 pm.

At present, the trio has returned to China after a one night lockup in the Philippines.

Comment

Surrender your seat!

Is it reasonable for the stewardess to ask for the seat change? I say yes. According to the aviation regulations of China, passengers who do not have a good understanding or ability in Chinese are not allowed to sit next to security exits.

That is because passengers sitting next to the emergency exit are responsible to help the crew in an emergency evacuation.

– Zhu Bing, an aircraft crewman

Leg room lure

The cause of the dispute was very simple. As we know, the seats next to the security exits have more spacious room, compared to others in the economy section of the plane, and are more comfortable. No wonder the man wouldn't leave.

– Lao Wang, local

Captain in command

Flight safety, by all means, should always come first. All threats to it, including out of control emotions, may require the captain to ask passengers to leave the plane. The captain has this right.

– Jeffson, expat

Easy to be hard

I'd rather not attach this incident to the quality of Chinese tourists abroad, in general. The "reputation" of Chinese tourists has improved greatly through government efforts over the past years. But what if the people in charge had more patience and compassion? That would save a lot of trouble.

– Simon Zhang, college student

Flexible flight attendants

As far as I know, the stewardesses on Philippines airplanes are all fluent in both Chinese and English. Even if they are not, there is always a stewardess standing by who understands Chinese and can be summoned by any passenger

– Xding, netizen

Tony and Li's labor of love



Tony's friend Deb imitated the animals to teach kids English

Doing time in prison

Tony Trapasso might be the first expat to ever deliver a speech and teach lessons in a Chinese prison. So far, he has been invited to almost all of the prisons in Yunnan Province.

As a psychologist and non-violence communication promoter, Tony has always been invited to American state prisons to show prisoners how to solve problems in a peaceful way.

"It's not an easy job to promote a non-violence concept in Chinese prisons," Li said. The idea of bringing this concept to the Chinese prisoner had been raised for years. Three years ago, when Tony and Li first talked over the plan with some of their prison leader friends in Yunnan Province, "They all laughed and said we were crazy!"

"How daring you are to attempt this. How can we allow a westerner to teach our Chinese prisoners to turn over a new leaf," Li quoted a prison leader as saying. "However, we did not give up and each time we met with these friends, we mentioned the scheme." He added that three years later, they were finally accepted. "I knew they had observed us throughout this three-year period and witnessed the many things we had done for local people and they recognized our sincerity," Li said.

In his promotional speech, Tony presented many examples and invited prisoners to perform with him as he pretended to be a prisoners' little son. All the prisoner's and prison officers' tears flowed after the performance. With the success of this activity, many prisons' leaders in Yunnan began to invite Tony to their prisons.

The expat educator also learned Naxi Dongba writing—the only living hieroglyphic language in the world and gave a three-week course to teach the writing to prisoners in Arizona.

"Many of the prisoners are African-American and illiterate. They were hesitant to listen to anyone," Tony said, adding that from a psychological angle, they were more inclined to lean on intuition to tell their stories.

"The results showed that Tony's method worked for some prisoners even drew six-meter-long Dongba writings to tell their story," he said.

Bringing Naxi art to the world

As the director and president of The American Encore Interactive Theater, Tony and Li also help local farmers see beyond their small villages and step onto the world stage.

Naxi ethnic minorities in Yunnan have a centuries-old traditional ancient music and dance, however, very few Naxi people leave their small towns.

By Han Manman

In China's "Ancient City" Lijiang lives a cross-national couple. The wife, Li Mei, 38, comes from Sichuan Province. The husband, Tony Trapasso, 53, comes from the US. They are quite famous in this small city as they organized many China and US folk culture exchange activities that had never been done before.

They introduced non-violent communication concepts to Chinese prisons; brought ancient Naxi ethnic art to the world stage and invited US teachers to teach locals English annually. Because of them, more and more westerners became familiar with Naxi and its ethnic art and because of them, more and more local farmers became educated to the outside world.



Li Mei and Tony Trapasso

Photos provided by Li Mei



Tony interacting with prisoners



Tony always led the kids to do fun things like singing and dancing.

"One day, some farmer artists told me they had a dream to let more westerners know about Naxi art, and they asked if Tony could help their dreams come true," Li said, adding that both she and Tony felt Naxi art was mysterious and interesting. Tony then flew to the US to make arrangements. However, an unexpected event turned up.

In March of 2005, just as over 10 American theaters agreed to hold the Naxi show, all of the farmer artists' visa applications were refused by the US consulate

in Chengdu. "The visa consul doubted the farmers' real purpose," Li said. When Li walked out of the consulate, she told Tony the result and they prepared to give the plan up and return home.

"However, Tony told us not to go anywhere and just wait inside the consulate gate," Li said, adding that her husband immediately made a phone call to the consulate. "After two hours of conversation, the consulate officers were moved by our sincerity. They made an exception and gave us the visas on the same day," Li said.

The 21-day US performance tour was superb and drew a good house.

Now, the Trapasso couple had another plan. When they heard there was a carpenter's village in Lijiang and all of the farmers had passed down all their carpentry skills through succeeding generations but were all very poor, Tony and Li decided to establish a website and a workshop in Lijiang to show the farmers' work.

A love story

As the president of the World Youth Visit Exchange Association of Arizona, Tony came to Chengdu for an eight-day visit in 2001. At his friend's recommendation, Li Mei became Tony's local translator for the trip. Her fluent English and warm personality forced Tony to develop feelings for her, while Tony's humorous and witty character also earned Li's affection.

Shortly after Tony came back to New York, the 9/11 disaster happened. Li's concern for Tony heightened their feelings for each other. Both Tony and Li had suffered failed marriages before and, as a result, Li was hesitant to accept Tony.

Tony put his courtship of Li into high gear. Every day, he made two transoceanic phone calls to her each lasting one or two hours. Every week, Li also received love gifts from souvenirs to toothbrushes, from antiques to handmade jewelry made by Tony himself. All things the love struck suitor had done moved Li and she finally succumbed. At the same time, Tony made a big decision and gave up everything and moved to China, just for Li.

"My mother also told me how lucky I was that one man would do so much for me," Li said, adding, "And then, we got married."

In the summer of 2003, Tony and Li traveled to Lijiang. They were deeply attracted to this exotic and romantic city. From that moment on, they rented a Naxi courtyard in the city where

they live today.

Unconditional friendship

The couple was hospitable and welcomed new friends to their courtyard. "Many westerners came to our home and said they had heard about us from their friends and wondered if they could stay at our home for a few days," Li said.

"We loved making new friends and seldom refused any request, no matter poor or rich, but Tony was very good at sizing people up. If he didn't like someone, we refused their company," she said. The couple invited their new friends to teach English to the local children for free.

"Most of the people in the city know us," Tony said. He joked that "at first, the stall-keeper would sell things to me at a very high price, however, they do not do that now as they know I have an 'eloquent' wife with whom they could never win an argument."

When asked about their biggest barrier when doing culture exchange activities, Li said that the main stumbling block was some local officers' snobbish attitudes. "Sometimes we wanted to help more local people, however we got no assistance from the officers as they thought there was no profit in it for them. Or they would ask us to do something but when we had done all our research and preparations, they suddenly would call us and say they had changed their minds," Li said.

"I am a Buddhist and insist on living where my heart is. Material possessions cannot bring happiness," she said.

Li and Tony are now entering their seventh year together. Although Tony's Chinese is still not making much progress, he has developed a tight relationship with Li's family. Whenever Li's mother calls her, Tony always "snatches" up the phone and says, "Mom, I love you" in Chinese to prove that he is studying his Chinese very hard and then he quickly passes the phone to Li.

Temple fairs draw expats for festival celebrations



Fuwa showed up for the celebration.



Foreign actors performing scenes from Dream of the Red Chamber.



Foreign families exploring the festivities, children in tow.



Bustiers and bracers have appeared in odder places.

CFP Photo



Foreign actors performing scenes from Dream of the Red Chamber.



Fairs are full of prizes waiting to be won.

Photos by Tiger Wei

A school for acrobatic wannabes



Dulce Maria Chavez Rodriguez practicing in the acrobatic school.

Photo provided by Dulce Maria Chavez Rodriguez

By Annie Wei

A new acrobatic show, Splendid, performed by the China National Acrobatic Troupe is expected to present a great combination of the best Chinese acrobatics and modern arts during the Olympic Games.

And the troupe, east of Beijing, in the Yizhuang district, has a school that offers acrobatic classes to local and foreign students.

Dulce Maria Chavez Rodriguez, 25, Mexican, and her boyfriend Tibor Ferenczi, 27, Hungarian, are students from the school. They have been in China for a year and a half and have been performers for five years.

Rodriguez and Ferenczi have their own Web site at eyetrick.info, posting their aerial hoop performances on youtube.

"We feel very happy to be here in China training in this school. In our countries we do not have any circus school and the best option is China," Rodriguez said.

"When talking about where to

learn acrobatics in China, most people know Wuqiao, Hebei Province," Linlin Zhang, director of foreign students' office from the school, said.

The school started taking foreign students in 1997, as a key educational institute to help train foreign students which the foreign affairs department had arranged.

It is the largest secondary art school in the country that teaches circus arts, martial arts and dances.

Most students enrolled in at the school already have formal training, and they will graduate from the school as professional performers and artists. The school also teaches those who do not have previous learning experience but have a strong desire to learn.

So far, the school has 100 foreign students with different backgrounds.

The school said that students from Europe and the US normally stay for one or two months. Students transferred through the foreign affairs departments are as young as seven or eight years old.

Comparing foreign students to local students, the teachers agreed that they come with quite different attitudes.

For Chinese kids, if the teachers think their body types are not suitable for acrobatics, they will persuade them to switch to something else. However, foreign students interest them more. They are from different backgrounds, like college professors and street artists who have a strong desire to learn, teachers coaching different subjects said.

Although the school said it would be desirable for students to come with a certain level of Chinese language ability, language does not seem a big obstacle in learning acrobatics. Chen Ninghui, 32, teacher of contortion said it was more important to do the demonstrations, correct the way they practice and give tips.

Take the handstand, for example, "At first they need to lean on the wall, and I help hold their feet up when they start practicing. When

they are fine with the basic and fundamental postures, we will guide them from one level to another," Chen said.

Chen talked about a 12-year-old Russian girl who had been doing handstand practice. "She has been here for four years and now she can do a handstand on one hand for eight minutes," he said.

Older students who have only practiced for several months cannot compete with the younger ones. "It's natural," Chen said, "There is a Chinese saying for acrobatic artists – one minute on the stage comes from ten years of practice off the stage."

For foreign students, they find the school a bit too far from the downtown area. Although it only takes around 30 minutes to drive on the weekend, the cab fee can easily mount up to 100 yuan when the traffic is bad on weekdays. There are some buses from Guomao going directly to the school gate.

Aaron Grane, 18, from the

US, is practicing juggling at the school. Grane said he always wanted to learn the German Wheel. So his mother asked a martial instructor back home who visited China a lot and he recommended the school. However, Grane said when he first visited the school's Web site, it said they taught German Wheel but the item was not available when he arrived.

Rodriguez, Ferenczi and their friends in school from other countries said they enjoyed their time at the school and practiced acrobatics. They hope to have more opportunities to study some Chinese and perform as artists.

During their first year at the school, there were no Chinese language classes. Outside the school and getting around the city were not easy tasks for them as non-Chinese speakers. Things are getting better as they have started taking a few Chinese classes per week. Some agents also came to the school and asked them to perform.

Love letters for Beijing's Valentine's Day



Beijing Playhouse rehearsing its play.

Photo provided by Beijing Playhouse

By Gan Tian

Beijing Playhouse put on A R Gurney's Pulitzer Prize-nomi-

nated drama *Love Letters* at the Block 8 last night, bringing a romantic touch to the city's Val-

entine's Day.

"It is a Broadway drama. We brought it to Beijing, especially for Valentine's Day," Chris Verrill, executive director of the playhouse, said.

The play began its open auditions last December, attracting hundreds of expats to try out. Holly Naylor and Joshua Hannum, both in their twenties, successfully won the leading character roles.

"They are really talented. Usually there are 20 to 30 people in one show, but this time, we have only two," Verrill said.

Hannum, from the US, plays the leading male role, Andrew Makepeace Ladd III. Currently, he is a professional model and admitted that being in the play

required a definite time commitment, but since he did not have many casting calls before the Spring Festival, he was happy to offer his acting talents.

"My mother forwarded me Beijing Playhouse's open audition info email so I decided to give it a try," he said. "The story was so romantic."

Hannum, in real life, is married. Just like the two characters in the play, Hannum and his girlfriend had known each other since they were in high school. Later she went to New York University and Hannum entered the University of Chicago.

When his girlfriend enrolled in the Beijing International School, Hannum decided to come to Beijing to marry her.

"One of the big reasons I came back to China is because I knew she was here," he said. Accordingly, in the play, the two actors sit side by side at tables and read the correspondence of their bittersweet relationship.

Hannum admitted that some of the character's traits are part of his makeup, "Andrew is passionate about writing and so am I so I feel very comfortable in the part."

To act in the play called for high qualifications. Naylor, playing the leading female role, is a full-time children's teacher. She has been involved with the Beijing Playhouse many times. "She has a beautiful singing voice and also is a wonderful actress," Verrill said.

The show will continue through weekend.

The hunt is on for home-stays

By He Jianwei

The municipal government will start searching out households next month that can provide rooms for foreign visitors during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, according to an official from the Beijing Tourist Bureau.

The charge for the home-stays will be from US \$50 to US \$80 per day which is less than most hotels, Xiong Yumei, deputy director of the Beijing Tourist Bureau said.

"The price might be adjusted to reflect the market fluctuations," she said.

Starting next month, the government will receive applications from citizens with a target of 1,000 households to provide rooms for foreign guests.

"Families should own the apartments that they plan to rent and be able to provide foreigners with spare rooms, good ventilation and sanitary conditions," she said.

The rooms must have a bathroom and the houses must be in a community which has access to transportation.

In addition, at least one member of the host family must speak a foreign language to guarantee smooth daily communication with the guests.

"The home-stays are different from the hotels. We hope the owners and the guests will become friends. The family members can introduce Chinese history and culture to the expats," she said.

The families should be willing to help guests find their way around the city and the Games and also help them experience the Beijing citizen's daily life including taking them to see Peking Opera or tai chi.

More than 500,000 overseas visitors are expected during the Games with the largest daily inflow estimated at 300,000.

The cost of a five-star hotel room during the Games will be about 2,960 yuan (US \$411) per night. For four-star hotels, 2,320 yuan; three-star rooms, 1,600 yuan and two-star accommodations, 1,200 yuan.



Home-stay at hutong house provides a cheaper and flexible accommodation during the Games.
Photo by CH

Fur and firecrackers, a bad mix!



A spooked dog hid in a wheel well and got stuck.

Photo by Yuan Banhui

By Gan Tian

The endless fireworks during Spring Festival let the locals enjoy the New Year celebrations, but cats and dogs in town did not share their glee.

Jannis King, from the US, has been living with her dog Tingy in the Maizidian area of

Chaoyang district for several months. Everything was normal with Tingy until the Spring Festival's fireworks began.

The dog cowered and barked incessantly the whole night. When King took the pooch to the pet hospital for a check-up, nothing was found wrong.

Haidian Hospital received many patients who wanted to get rabies vaccinations during Spring Festival. The doctor said that almost all of them were bitten by their pets frightened by the fire crackers.

Sarah Fish, animal behavior specialist, offered some tips.

Talk to the animals

You need to recognize your pet's body language, because this is how they communicate. Feel its spine from neck to tail. If this area feels tense, then this tells you that your dog is feeling distressed or uncomfortable.

Doggie wrap

You can criss-cross a stretchy bandage over its shoulders, encase it in a dog T-shirt or wrap a stretchy fabric over its body. This helps give

the animal the sensation of body contact or touch.

Cracker proof the house

Close the curtains and shut the doors. If possible, try to create a den for your pet, a corner would be ideal, as opposed to an alcove which would boost the noise and reverberations. You can also turn on the TV or the radio as this will help maintain a sense of normality and provide a more recognizable alternative to the noises outside.

Don't freak out!

Try to remain calm as this will help reassure your pet that there is nothing to worry about. Try not to cuddle or hold your pet too much as this may suggest to it that there is indeed something to be anxious about.

I am graduating this term from a Singapore university. My major is Business Management. Being effectively bilingual, my current plan is to find a temp job - teaching, writing or translating - first to survive my initial months in Singapore. Subsequently, I intend to apply to multinational corporations for entry level positions in China. Is that a wise move? Any further advice or tips?

It seems hard for people to cut it in the teaching market if you're not from North America, the UK or Australia. Writing or translating is possible. It does seem like you have pretty good English for a Singaporean, if indeed you are one.

You can try for the entry-level position. The job market will be better after Chinese New Year, from the end of February up till about April is hiring season. You should be able to find a work position then. Having prior work experience from the internship should help.

You should contact companies in Beijing to at least secure interviews before you venture out. Don't count on companies sending you overseas when you are just a graduate.

The sensible thing is probably to find a company in Singapore and gain experience.

I'm leaving for five days and currently haven't found anyone to care for my dogs. Does anyone have a number or know of a dog hotel in Beijing, preferably around the Chaoyang CBD, where I can take my dogs to stay for awhile?

You can call the Woaiwoai Pets Hospital in Nongguang Nan Li. They charge 50 yuan per day. If you want to take your dog there, contact them at once. You need to take papers showing your dog has all its vaccinations.

Where: Woaiwoai Plaza, 1 Nongguang Nan Li, Chaoyang District.

Tel: 8737 5252

The city gets so inconvenient when everyone is gone during the Chinese New Year. My favorite Chinese restaurants are closed and I cannot find places to get my shoes fixed or buy things. Do you know when merchants go back to work again?

It totally depends on the small business owners. The majority of employees go back to work on February 13 and some small shops might come back after February 21, the Lantern Festival.

(By Li Fenghua)



A Taste of Abbas Kiarostami

SOLO EXHIBITION AT ITS CHINA'S FINAL STOP



His photography: trees and roads

Walking into the Beijing Art Museum of Imperial City, the viewers enter a world of white and black. The walls are white; the photographs are white and black inside white frames.

The subject of Abbas Kiarostami's photography is the Iranian countryside. From the city of Tehran he travels, some-

times north, toward the Caspian Sea, and sometimes as far as Kurdistan, near the Iraqi border.

"Contemplating a cloudy sky and the massive trunk of a tree under a magical light is difficult when one is alone. Not being able to feel the pleasure of seeing a magnificent landscape with someone else is a form of torture. That is why I started taking photographs. I wanted somehow to eternalize those moments of passion and pain," Kiarostami said.

All the 84 photographs are in two series, *The Untitled* and

The Road. *The Untitled* series is composed of photographs about trees in snow, which is born out of Kiarostami's long, solitary walks to search for film locations, sometimes covering thousands of miles over the Iranian landscape.

Shadows and snowdrifts contribute to the breakdown of a sense of scale and perspective. An atmosphere of solitude and meditation is evoked. The steady hills, broad skies and snow-covered expanses are reminiscent of traditional idyllic landscapes.



His film: truth and lies

One of the masters of contemporary cinema, Abbas Kiarostami has won not only the admiration of audiences and critics worldwide, but also the support of famous directors.

"Words cannot describe my feelings about them and I simply advise you to see his films. When Satyajit Ray (a great Indian filmmaker) passed away on, I was very depressed. But after seeing Kiarostami's films, I thanked God for giving us just the right person to take his place," Akira Kurosawa, the Japanese master of film, said.

Altogether there will be 20 movies, including long and short films, most of which are being shown in public for the

first time in China. The short films range from *Bread and Alley*, filmed in 1970, to *Roads of Kiarostami* in 2006; and the long films from *The Traveler* in 1974 to *Ten* in 2002.

The films also include *The Taste of Cherry*, *Under the Olive Trees*, which won the Critic's Award at Sao Paulo International Film Festival in 1994, and *The Wind Will Carry Us*, which captured the Grand Special Jury Prize at the Venice Film Festival in 1999.

Viewers can enjoy the films in the projection room and they will be shown in sequence.

In Kiarostami's films, he always mixes fiction and documentary in a poetic and unique way, often presenting fact as fiction and vice versa. He has said, "We can never get close to the truth except through lying."

His poetry: nature and solitude

On the walls, some pieces of Kiarostami's poems are written both in Persian and Chinese in charcoal pencil. The poem, "Walk with the Wind," distills and delivers the world in the same way as Kiarostami's films do.

The structure of his poems is like Haiku, a poetic form and a type of poetry from the Japanese culture, but the artistic conception is similar to Chinese ancient poetry.

The ingredients are elemental: night, day, spring, moonlight, violets, streams, butterflies, cherry blossoms, a snowflake or a spider diligently weaving its web. Each poem is a journey that lasts a mere instant; in each we are momentary travelers





By He Jianwei

He is a leading film director, whose film *The Taste of Cherry*, won the Golden Palm at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997; he is an insightful photographer, whose

works invoke a sense of solitude and mystery; he is also a poet, whose works capture the evanescence and beautiful moments in life.

After an exhibition tour of China's

five cities, Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami presented his solo exhibition in Beijing including 20 films, 84 photographs and his poetry *Walking with the Wind*.



The images become the equivalent of emotional states and the trees almost human, echoing the saying of the Islamic mystic Muhyiddin Ibn' Arabi (1165 – 1240), "the tree is the sister of man."

In The Road, Kiarostami captures through his camera, a road, showing the traces of a plow, or electrical lines stretching above the landscape. In Persian culture, the road is a symbol of one's journey through life. A bumpy country road, a motorway stretching into the distance, a winding track in

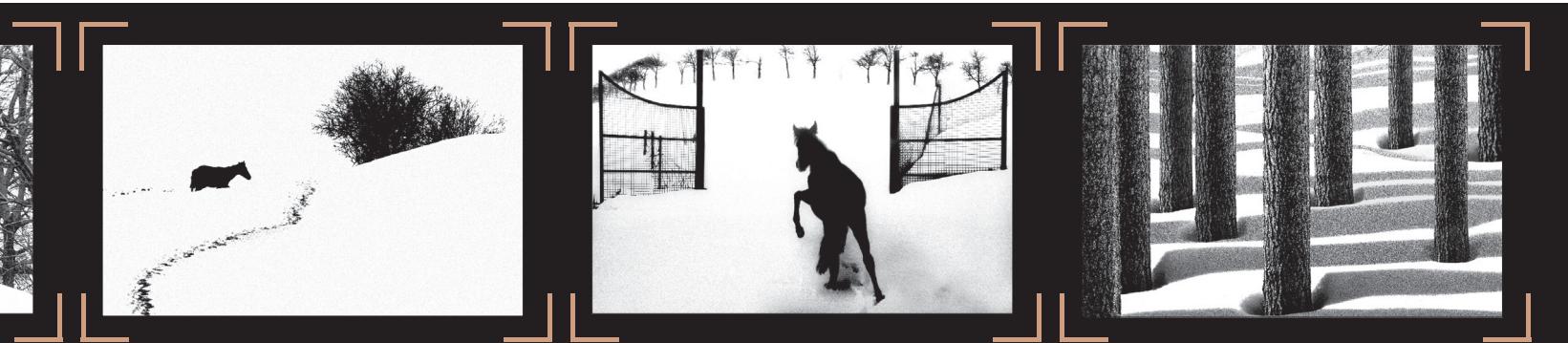
a meadow, all these different roads represent the orbit of human life.

Kiarostami's photographs achieve their impact without the use of intricate lighting techniques or sophisticated equipment. He is not concerned with studied methods of technique or printing.

"While photography is not necessarily something that incites viewers to daydream, it can be. If dreaming consists of fleeing the city and its constraints, if dreaming means going

back to sources and therefore to nature, then photographing nature can incite dreaming," he said.

"For someone who was born in an apartment and who is used to towering buildings, cars, traffic jams, underground tunnels, the language of advertising and whose life takes place beneath a gray and cloudy sky, nature has a whole other significance. In my opinion, this nature here is the opposite of human nature and its needs. We often have a tendency to forget this reality," he added.



and life itself is revealed to us.

The 132 poems of this collection consist of pristine observations of nature.

Kiarostami's poems are, however, not love poems. The lyrical quality of Kiarostami's cinematic gaze carries over to these poems. The images are delicate and bold and acutely visual. Nature here is not imbued with mystical content; it is the poet's observation that yields nature's true essence. The seer and the seen become one.

*From a crack in the ashen sky
a drop of light falls
on to spring's first blossom.*

The most striking sentiment in the poetry is an overwhelming sense of solitude.

*I arrive alone
I drink alone
I laugh alone
I cry alone
I'm leaving alone.*

About Abbas Kiarostami

Abbas Kiarostami was born in Tehran, Iran, in 1940. He graduated from university with a Bachelor's degree in fine arts before starting work as a graphic designer. He then joined the Center for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, where he started a film section, and this started his career as a filmmaker at 30.

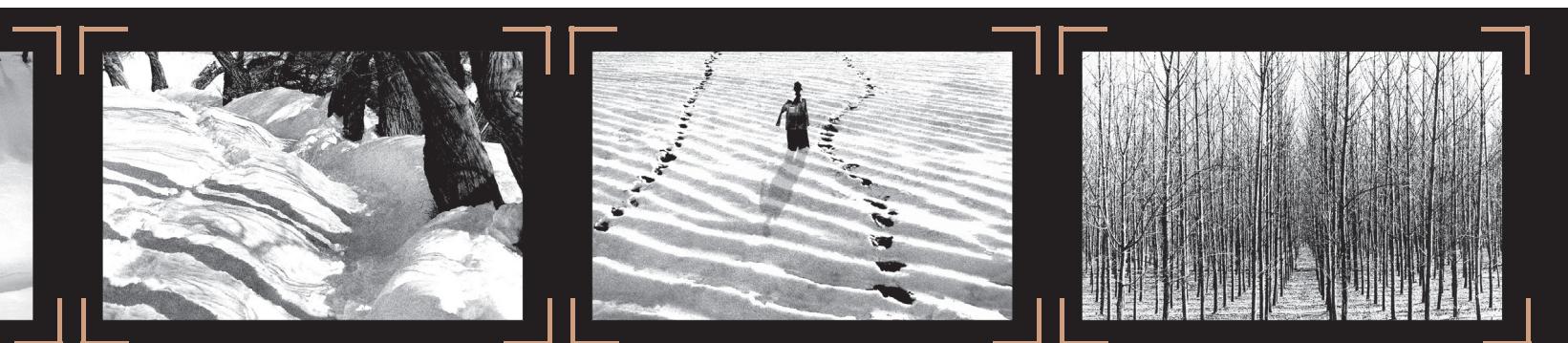
Since then he has made many movies and has become an important figure in Iranian film. He is also a major figure in the arts world, and has had numerous gallery exhibitions of his photography, short films and poetry.

Info

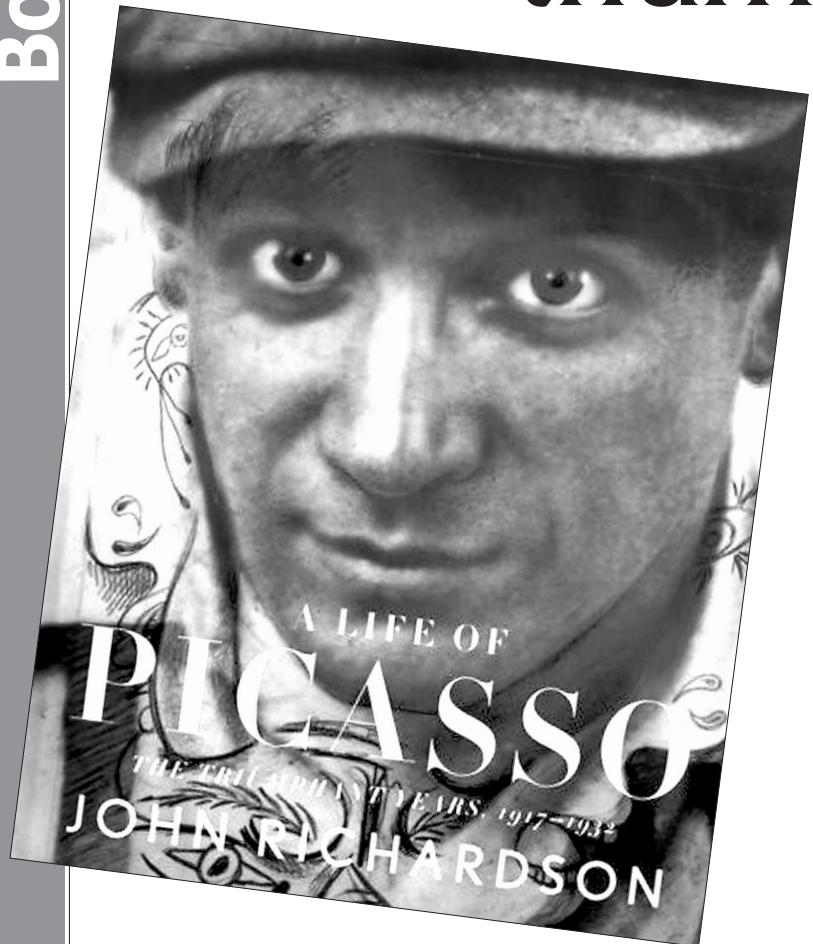
Abbas Kiarostami

Where: Beijing Art Museum of Imperial City, 9 Chang Pu He Yan, Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District
Open: Tue-Sun, 10 am – 5:30 pm, until February 28
Admission: 20 yuan

Photos provided by Beijing Art Museum of Imperial City



Picasso's years of triumph, passion



Jokes, confessions for yesterday's jilted

Being dumped sucks, but it is a painful experience almost all will share.

In *Things I've Learned From Women Who've Dumped Me* (240pp, Grand Central Publishing, US \$14.39), Ben Karlin presents an impressive anthology of comical heartbreak and its lessons learned.

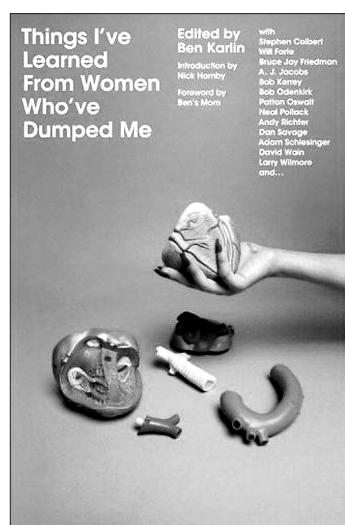
The book is packed with simple truths in comic narrative. Karlin and his contributing writers find inspiration in every failed relationship. "If you lie, you will get caught," "flowers work" and "watch out for the high strung brother in the military."

Despite the title, not every story deals with being dumped. Mean stories are about unrequited love, rejection and creepier things. Some stories like Dan Savage's "I Am as Gay Man," where he tells how he slept with a girl to try and avoid the fact that he was gay, will probably raise a few eyebrows.

Pieces in the anthology are contributed by celebrities, writers and public figures and range from the paragraph to the lengthy essay. Most read like the transcript of a stand-up comedy routine with some of the potty jokes axed out.

Most story titles reflect the nuggets within, such as Bob Odenkirk's "Nine Years Is the Exact Right Amount of Time to Be in a Bad Relationship," Matt Goodman's "Being Awkward Can Be a Prophylactic Against Dry Humping" and Will Forte's "Beware of Math Tutors Who Ride Motorcycles."

How does an Internet humor writer turned comedy show pro-



ducer end up published in such an "outdated" medium? "Studies show that 1,400 people in this country still read books. It's important that I impress them," Karlin said in an interview with his favorite reporter: himself.

Karlin's comic work has mostly been behind the scenes. His career kicked off as editor of The Onion, a satirical online newspaper, and rocketed to include work as the executive producer of The Daily Show with John Stewart and as co-creator and former executive producer of The Colbert Report.

He was also the co-author and co-editor of *America (The Book)*, Stephen Colbert's popular 2005 title.

Karlin currently lives in New York City with his wife.

(By Derrick Sobodash)

By Charles Zhu

Pablo Picasso's life was fascinating and drama packed – something reflected by the constant change in style throughout his creative years. *A Life of Picasso*, by John Richardson, is an ongoing biographical series that explores the artist's life. The third volume, *A Life of Picasso, The Triumphant years, 1917-1932* (592 pp, Knopf, US \$40) was just released.

This period was Picasso's most creative and productive. He experimented with one artistic style after another and tried a wealth of modes of representation.

His trip to Italy in the spring of 1917 with Jean Cocteau, Sergei Diaghilev and Leonide Massine – three collaborators on the ballet Parade – lasted 10 weeks and changed his life as an artist.

The collection of Greek and Roman marble sculptures at the Museo Nazionale restored his sense of scale denied in cubism by limiting the image to the size of the subject.

With his marriage to Olga, a dancer with the Ballets Russes, Picasso changed his lifestyle and entered a period his friends termed the "époque des duchesses." He moved to Paris' affluent eighth arrondissement and befriended poets, painters, critics, patrons, collectors and other high society socialites.

In 1925, he started to paint in a new and surprisingly original style, with extreme and grotesque deformations of the human face

and body. It was most strikingly expressed in "The Dance," a work Picasso made to commemorate the death of his old friend Ramon Pichot.

In the following eight years, Picasso's passion for Marie-Therese inspired a wellspring of creativity. The themes of his works in this period were erotic rapture for his mistress and displeasure with his wife. Picasso invented a new figure type that Richardson called the femme-phallus. Love for Marie-Therese helped engender some of Picasso's most romantic and erotic works.

Dreams became one of his important themes.

"When I was a child, I often had a dream that used to frighten me greatly. I dreamed that my legs and arms grew to an enormous size and then shrank back just as much in the other direction. And all around me, in my dream, I saw other people going through the same transformations, getting huge or very tiny. I felt terribly anguished every time I had dreams about that," Picasso said.

Picasso's desire for Marie-Therese helped inspire him to sculpt again for the first time in many years. The new femme-phallus figure type appropriately matched the task.

Critics hail Richardson's work as the best ever biography of the artist. His upcoming fourth and final volume will deal with the artist's final years.

CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.

The Bad Quarto: An Imogen Quy Mystery

By Jill Paton Walsh, 256 pp, St. Martin's Minotaur, 90 yuan

Another foolhardy Cambridge college-climber has died attempting Harding's Folly. This time it is John Talentire, one of the brightest young dons at St Agatha's, and the verdict is accident – compounded by idiocy. But Imogen Quy cannot help but wonder how such a clever young man died so stupidly. When a wildly eccentric production of Hamlet is interrupted by a murder accusation, Imogen has to look into it, uncovering more crime than she expected.

Blood Is the New Black

By Valerie Stivers, 304 pp, Hodder Paperback, 90 yuan

The Devil may wear Prada, but real fashion taste is in the blood. When Kate gets offered an internship at a top New York fashion magazine Tasty, everyone tells her she's the luckiest girl alive. But it's not long before office politics get to her. Her fellow interns are bitchy, her superiors are backstabbing and she is constantly getting it in the neck from her chilly boss Lillian. But when people start to go missing, Kate starts to realize that there's something funny going on at Tasty.

The Debutante Divorcee: A Novel

By Plum Sykes, 256 pp, Miramax Books, 80 yuan

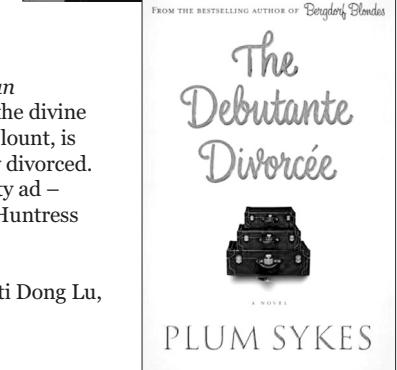
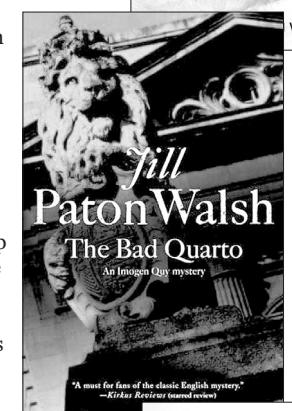
Sylvie Mortimer just married and is happy with the divine new husband, Hunter. Sylvie's new friend, Lauren Blount, is very rich, very young, very thin, very pretty and very divorced. Sylvie discovers her marriage isn't exactly an Eternity ad – especially when the city's most notorious Husband Huntress zeros in after her spouse.

CNPIEC Bookstore

Where: the second floor of CNPIEC, No 16 Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 8:30 am – 6:30 pm
Tel: 6500 1859, 6592 6871

(By He Jianwei)



By Gan Tian

The capital is certainly teeming with aspiring graffiti artists, but with walls off limits, the artists are forced to turn to other sources.

Skateboards, though small, provide an excellent, portable and small canvas. They are cheap, convenient and police officers do not arrest people for vandalizing their own wheels.

Graffiti artists find 4-wheel canvas



Jessica Luo, 23, designer

Good girl never gone bad

Luo started skateboarding at age 16. One day, while shopping with her mother near Anzhen Hua-lian Shopping Mall, she saw a group of skateboarders. "It was so exciting that I fell in love with it at first sight," she said.

The next day, Luo begged her mother to buy her a skateboard, and she became one of the few girls interested in the sport. It was hard at first; she fell many times when skateboarding with boys. After several months of practice, her balance improved, but by then her skateboard was thoroughly battered.

"I had promised myself I wouldn't let it get so scratched up. As a girl, I love beautiful

and delicate patterns. Actually I am always tidy and clean – my appearance, my bedroom, my toys..." Luo said. Since she was studying design and painting, she decided to apply her skills and design a new pattern for the board on her own.

She used paints and brushes to make Hello Kitty faces under her skateboard. "It was so strange. I used to skateboard with boys and they were surprised to see me on a pink Hello Kitty board."

Since then, Luo has been fascinated with skateboard painting. "These two things (the sport and painting) are always combined for me. Both represent freedom, and I am a free girl," Luo said.



Ambar Lee, 27, shop owner Paint my love

Ambar Lee found his girlfriend Jin Zhe when he was skateboarding at the university. "It was totally a disaster. I fell down, and she laughed at me, and the very next thing I knew I was kissing her," he said.

When Lee skateboarded in the university, he knew pretty well how to buy a good quality board. "I had all the distributors' telephone numbers at that time, so after I graduated, I was wondering whether I could open a skateboard shop all by myself," Lee said.

Jin Zhe, a sports fan, supported Lee's idea whole-heartedly. "First I thought it was a little bit crazy

but then I agreed. However, after I imported several skateboards, I did not think some of them were painted well. So we started on our own."

Lee and his girlfriend then entered this field. Lee, also a hip-hopper, knew what the customers wanted. He put his ideas in the paintings and sold them. "Some of them are very popular, for example, small monster, rabbits, monkeys. Sometimes my customers even asked me to put their names on the board," he said.

Lee and Jin enjoyed life very much. "Sometimes he would paint his love on the skateboard, and told me that it was for me," Jin said.

Zhang Yan, 19, student Out of walls

Zhang is a self-styled graffiti painter. "I turned to graffiti because my scholastic ability was lacking," he said.

By fifth grade, his favorite pastime was playing hookey. One day, while playing games in an Internet cafe with some friends, he and one of his friends argued about money. He took revenge by scribbling some nasty words on his friend's door with chalk. "That's how I got into graffiti," he said, laughing. "But I guess it is not something to be proud of. Those days are gone," he said.

His first real run in with graffiti was in a Sanlitun garage. "The style was so wonderful – the way they expressed their talent. I never thought of using spray paints," Zhang said. He wanted to try, but could not find any white walls.

"I heard it (public graffiti) is illegal in China, so I had no idea how they got

away with it. Even if I got to know the artists, I didn't think they would take me since they had an exclusive clique," Zhang said.

That was when Zhang realized he could paint on the back of a skateboard. "The space is small, but it still can satisfy my appetite for graffiti," he said.

Zhang suggests paying attention to the graffiti on walls and skateboards. "Sometimes you can figure out if they have the same style, even the same spirit." The style the painters adopt in writing characters, expressing their ideas and the colors they use.

"It is a small space, but when you take your skateboard on road, your attitude will be judged by everyone," Zhang said. "Unfortunately, I am a sports idiot. I tried skateboarding many times, but always fell off."

By Gan Tian

Eating *yuanxiao* is part of the Lantern Festival tradition. The festival falls on the 15th day of the first lunar month and marks the end of the Chinese New Year celebrations. This year's festival will be on February 21.

Yuanxiao are small dumplings made of glutinous rice flour and stuffed with rose petals, sesame seed, bean paste, jujube paste, ground walnut, dried fruit, sugar or edible oils. The treats can be boiled, fried or steamed.

Beijing Today has some new ideas on how to enjoy the tasty white balls for this *Yuanxiao* Festival.

The Festival

By Han Manman

The Lantern Festival is a time for people to have fun. On the night of the festival, people go on to the streets with a variety of lanterns under the full moon, watching lions or dragon dancing, playing Chinese riddles and games, and lighting up firecrackers.

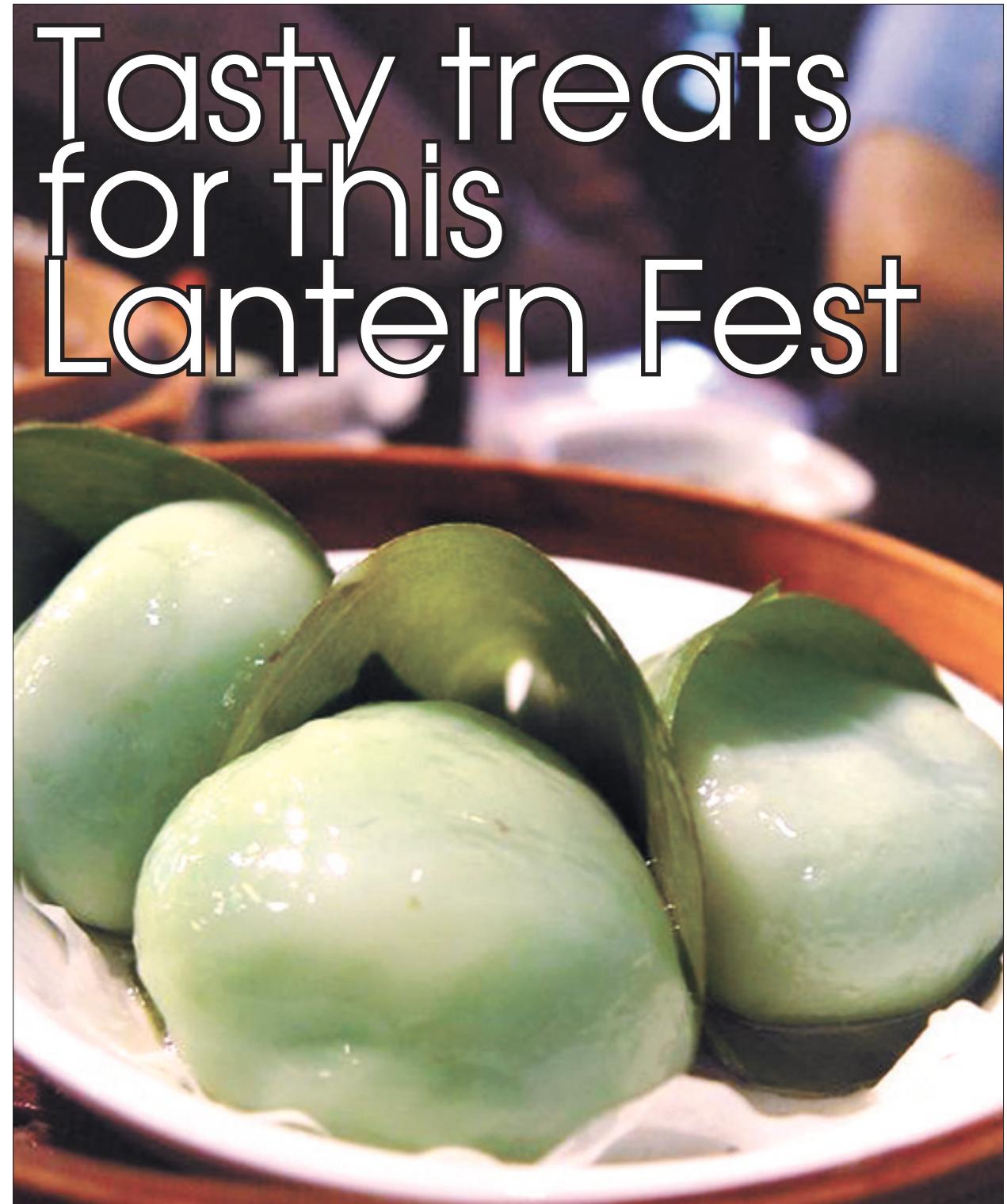
Eating *yuanxiao*, also called *tangyuan*, is a must for the day. The custom of eating *yuanxiao* began in the Eastern Jin Dynasty (217-420AD), and became popular during the Tang and Song periods.

There are many stories about the origin of the Lantern Festival, but it almost certainly had to do with religious observation.

According to a well-known legend, a celestial swan came into the mortal world and was shot by a hunter. The Jade Emperor, the highest god in Heaven, vowed to avenge the swan. He started making plans to send a troop of celestial soldiers and generals to Earth on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month with orders to incinerate all humans and animals.

The other celestial beings disagreed with this course of action and risked their lives to warn the people of Earth. As a result, before and after the fifteenth day of the first month, every family hung red lanterns outside their doors and set off firecrackers and fireworks to trick the celestial being into believing their homes were already burning.

By successfully tricking the Jade Emperor, humanity was saved from extermination.



Northern or southern style?

By Han Manman

The north and south may differ in how they prepare *yuanxiao*, but both agree the treat is a must for the Lantern Festival.

In the south, people eat "wrapped" *yuanxiao*, also called *tangyuan*. These *yuanxiao* are made by forming glutinous rice flour into balls, making a hole, stuffing

the ball with filling and rolling it sealed.

Here in Beijing and much of the north, "rolled" *yuanxiao* with sweet or non-meat stuffing are more popular. The filling is pressed into a hardened core, then dipped in water and rolled in a basket full of loose glutinous rice flour. After the flour clings to the ball, it is moistened and rolled again and again to the desired size.

Types of *Yuanxiao*

By Han Manman

With the approach of the Lantern Festival, *yuanxiao* can be found everywhere. Their round shape symbolizes the family circle, and eating *yuanxiao* symbolizes hope for reunion.

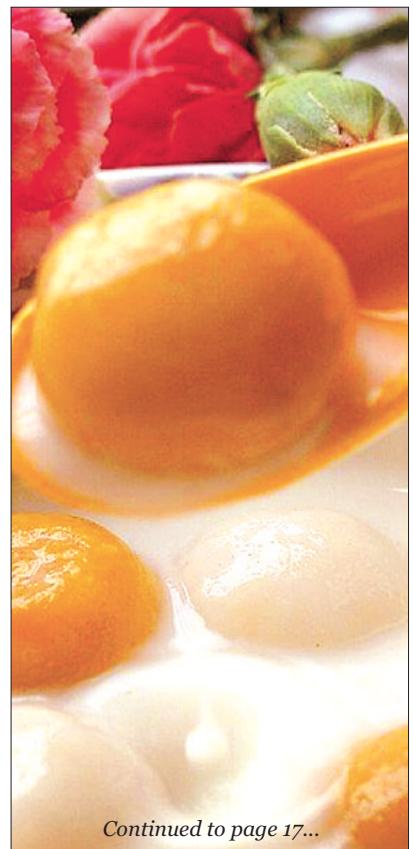
Yuanxiao are not only a traditional holiday food, but also were used to express respect for deities. The shape also represents perfection and unity.

There are many types of *yuanxiao*, with fillings with savory, spicy, sweet, sour and

salty tastes.

Sweet fillings are the most common, and are made from sugar, walnuts, sesame, osmanthus flowers, rose petals, sweetened tangerine peel, bean paste or jujube paste. A single ingredient or any combination can be used as filling.

The salty variety is filled with minced meat, vegetables or a mixture. These ingredients are mixed together and formed into small balls, then set aside to dry.



Continued to page 17...



Spotting a bad batch

By Gan Tian

Are you afraid of buying a bad batch of *yuanxiao*? Here are four steps to keep in mind when shopping for the treats.

Step One: Look

Good *yuanxiao* are white without any flaws and are shaped like a ball. If they are dark, not round or have an imbalanced color, then shop elsewhere! Be careful that the *yuanxiao* do not have any cracks. They break easily, and any breaks could mean a loss in nutrition and taste. Good *yuanxiao* have a plastic support tray inside the package to prevent a loss in shape.

Step Two: Touch

Touch the *yuanxiao* with your finger before purchasing. If they are soft, it means they have been thawed. Do not buy *yuanxiao* which have not been kept frozen.

Step Three: Boil

When you boil *yuanxiao*, a quality batch will not be too sticky and will not discolor the water. The *yuanxiao* will float within a few minutes. Bad *yuanxiao* are sticky, and may break when boiled.

Step Four: Taste

Good *yuanxiao* taste smooth, with a thick inside and smooth skin. Bad *yuanxiao* taste rough and not elastic. They are sometimes too sweet or too oily. By this stage, it is probably too late to do anything about your bad *yuanxiao*, but at least you will have learned a good lesson for next year!

A recipe to roll your own

By Han Manman

Roll a *yuanxiao* deceptively is simple.

Ingredients

4 1/2 cups (500g) glutinous rice flour (*nuomi mian*)
butter 200g
black sesame powder 200g (*hei zhima fen*)
sugar 250g
1 tsp wine

Instruction

1. Mix the butter, sesame powder, sugar and wine. Heat slightly. Make small balls about 10g each.
2. Add water to 1/2 cup of glutinous rice flour to make a flat dough. Boil and remove when done. Let it cool, then add the rest of the glutinous rice flour. Add water and knead until smooth.
3. Roll the dough into small pieces about 10g each. Form a ball using hands, then open a hole, push in the sesame ball and seal it.
4. Boil the *yuanxiao*. Stir in one direction while cooking. When the *yuanxiao* float to the surface, reduce heat and continue to boil for another minute.

Tips

Yuanxiao must be boiled in the right way. Bring a pot of water to

a boil on a strong fire. Drop them in gently. When they float to the surface, keep them in the pot for a few more minutes to ensure the inside is thoroughly cooked. However, you have to reduce the heat when they surface, otherwise the sesame filling will burst out. You can add cold water to the pot to quickly reduce heat, then simmer the *yuanxiao* instead of boiling.

Made by a master

By Gan Tian

If you've rolled yourself a botched batch of *yuanxiao*, don't panic! Many local restaurants have been making this traditional Chinese dessert for years.

Huatian Xiaochi

Huatian Xiaochi, located near Huguosi, is famous among the city's traditional dessert shops. Its most-recommended *yuanxiao* flavors are crabapple, chocolate, sesame, fruits, sweet osmanthus, coconut, strawberry, pineapple, orange and bean paste: the first three are not to be missed. *Yuanxiao* are sold frozen at 10 yuan per 500 grams, and fresh tangyuan at 18 per bowl. One kilogram gift packs are available at a cheaper price.

Where: 241, Dongsi Bei Dajie, Dongcheng

Tel: 6618 1705

Daoxiangcun

Famous laozihao Daoxiangcun sells sesame, crabapple and coconut and milk *yuanxiao*. It only has frozen tangyuan, but developed two new kinds last year: sugarless bean paste and sesame. The treats are aimed to include diabetics in the celebration. You can boil, steam or fry Daoxiangcun's *yuanxiao*. The treats are made and sold fresh at 12 yuan per 500 grams or 4 yuan for a pack of 10 tangyuan.

Waiguanxiejie Branch

Where: 50, Waiguanxie Jie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6424 9050

Jintailu Branch

Where: 21, Jintaili, Jintai Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8599 5016

Xiaoying Branch

Where: 6, Xiaoying Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8465 1362

Xinjiekou Branch

Where: 8, Xinjiekou Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

Tel: 6201 9994

Holiland

This dessert shop serves up fashionable *yuanxiao*. It has red sugar, chocolate, peanut and rose petals. Girls love them for their cute shape and nutritious filling. What's special is that Holiland has a gift package for the customers. Buying a pack-

age of *yuanxiao* with a beautiful outfit is pretty fitting if you don't know what gift to buy for your parents. Hollyland asks only 59 yuan for that.

Fuxingmen Branch

Where: A3, Fuxingmen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

Tel: 6633 4944

Chongwenmen Branch

Where: 28, Chongwenmen Wai Dajie, Chongwen District

Tel: 6717 4567

Cuiwei Lu Branch

Where: 5, Cuiwei Lu, Haidian District

Tel: 8821 8218

Anyuan Branch

Where: 2, Anyuanbeili, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6489 5176



Dining



Xiaolumian

Xiaolumian is a weathered stone farmhouse tucked under the Great Wall. It is an ideal place for an intimate party. You can choose handmade noodles, sauces, vegetables and soups.

Where: 130 Yingbeigou Village, Huairou

Open: 10 am – 6 pm

Tel: 6162 6506



Schoolhouse Canteen

The Schoolhouse Canteen serves foods based on local fresh ingredients. It serves light Italian fare with homemade ice creams, sorbets, and chocolates.

Where: 12 Mutianyu Village, Huairou

Open: Thu-Tue 10 am – 6 pm

Tel: 6162 6506

Nightlife



The Art of Death

The show features death metal, including several top rock groups from Beijing and Tianjin.

Where: New Get Luck Bar (Haoyun), A1 Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang

When: 9 pm, February 16

Admission: 30-40 yuan

Tel: 8448 3335

In this Moment

In This Moment is a group of five people, set on carving out their own destiny and refusing to let others deter their mission to become the biggest band in the world. Their highly anticipated debut album, Beautiful Tragedy, produced by Eric Rachel (Atreyu, God Forbid), is a dynamic opus that proves they are well beyond their years.

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Coutyard former site of Duan Cirui Government, 2-3 Zhang Zizhong Lu, Dongcheng

When: 9 pm, February 17

Admission: 120 yuan (advance), 150 yuan (door)

Tel: 6404 2711



Outdoors



Yaji Shan Temple Circuit

On this hike you will visit the three temples of Yaji Shan. The first temple is at the foot of the mountain and was originally built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644AD). This temple was destroyed by the Japanese army during the war and since has been rebuilt.

There are two other temples at the top of the mountain – one built during the Tang Dynasty (618-907AD) and the other during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911AD). Both had to be rebuilt after the war, as well.

The temples of Ya Ji Shan are a popular religious attraction for people in the Pinggu district. It is quite common to see people burning incense and sometimes a full religious ceremony is presented.

Ya Ji Shan is named for its similarity to a hairstyle that was popular for young girls a long time ago. If you see the mountain from the right angle – and use a little imagination – you will be able to see the resemblance. Think of the mountain as the head and the two temples at the top of the mountain as two cute pigtails jutting out from either side.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: 8:30 am – 5 pm, February 17

Cost: 300 yuan

Tel: 13910025516 (reservations at Beijing Hikers are essential)

Beijing Longqing Gorge Ice Lantern Festival

Located 80 kilometers north of Beijing, Beijing Longqing Gorge (Longqingxia) is best known for its outdoor gallery of massive sculptures of ice animals and figures of all shapes and sizes. When illuminated at night, they create rare must-see-to-believe visuals. The mountains around the gorge will also be illuminated, forming a shining Great Wall – a beautiful background for the Ice Lantern Wonderland in the middle basin.

Fireworks, performances, tobogganing, skiing, ice fishing and ice slides add to the festival's fun.

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (CCC) (Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) for bus



transportation.

When: 4 pm – 10 pm, February 16

Cost: 250 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration at CCC is important)

(By Li Jing)

If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com

Good vibrations means good workout

By Wang Chuyang

It seems like everyone uses an iPod, a wrist radio or listens to music at his gym. Have you ever wondered whether there is any real benefit to hearing your favorite song while exercising?

Workout Music: Nine benefits

1. Reduces pain and discomfort: According to a paper published by the National Institute for Health in 2005, listening to any type of music you enjoy is a non-invasive pain intervention method one can use to cope.

2. Relieves stress: Healthy individuals can use music to reduce stress through active involvement, such as drumming, to aid motivation for physical exercise as well as passive listening for relaxation reports the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA).

3. Increases mental and emotional functions: AMTA claims that music used with elderly persons can increase or maintain their level of physical, mental, social and emotional functioning. The sensory and intellectual stimulation of music can help maintain a person's quality of life.

4. Maintains health: The AMTA says music can improve even a healthy individual's quality of life as well as meet the needs of those with disabilities or illnesses.

5. Clears your head: According to an article published in *Time Magazine*, November 2005, says that the melody and rhythm of music can have a profound affect on improving quality of life for Alzheimer's patients and their care-givers and can even

bring about a response from patients when other stimuli fail.

6. Boosts your mood: Music can have a positive or negative affect on mood and suggested that music engineered for motivation may be useful in alleviating tension, mental distraction and negativity.

7. Pump up your immune system: In 1996, McCraty researched the effects of music on emotion and positive emotional states of the immune and autonomic nervous system in healthy individuals. He discovered that music engineered for mental clarity and balance enhanced the immune system.

8. Changes your life: The Institute of Heart Math in Boulder, CO, released numerous studies results showing that music affects emotions and mood states and can also modify physiological responses.

9. Improves your sports performances: Listening to music when competing could divert the fatigue factor, could be stimulating or calming, could affect mood and motivation and specific music and music tempos worked best depending on the activity. Music is definitely an "often untapped source of both motivation and inspiration for both sport and exercise participants."

Choosing the right song

Since everybody has different tastes, we have provided a wide range of motivational songs that can get you pumped up during your workout.

Are you a boxer and need to improve the power of your punch? Then listen to Roy Jones Jr's "Can't Be Touched." His lyrics are directed towards boxing when he sings about how he "can't be touched, can't be stopped, can't be moved, can't be rocked, and can't be shook." With his strong rap lyrics, this song will get you pumped up whether you are sparring or just pounding the punching bag!

Survivor's "The Eye of the Tiger" is the ideal workout music to get you pumped. It was made famous in *Rocky III*, and just seeing Rocky Balboa

training to this track is enough to get anyone motivated. The song is about taking your chances and rising to the top. This can be applied whether you are just doing 40 minutes of weights or training for the fight of your life. Put this song on in the background and you won't believe the power of your workout!

Queen's "I Want It All" is a very famous song that tells you to go for what you want and do it now! Do you want to be a champion? Queen does it again with "We Are the Champions." The song talks of making mistakes and taking your fair share of knocks in the past, but bouncing back, ultimately suggesting, "We'll keep on fighting to the end." What more motivation

do you need than that?

Gloria Gaynor's mega-hit "I Will Survive" provides a motivational message to get you through the hard times, whether it's a workout or life's hard knocks. The song gets you pumped to the max and reminds you that you can accomplish anything you want in life.

These are just five suggested songs. It is important that you find out what type of music will help you reach your workout goals. What song is going to help you achieve that last push up? What song is going to make you sweat more than you ever have? Start today and your workouts will improve instantly.



Photo by Liu Ying

Visual Effects

Another way to get pumped before a workout is to use sound and sight. Try watching the first 10 minutes of *Gladiator* before your next workout and see what kind of results it produces.

Useful Websites

workoutmusic.com/index.html
exerciseradio.com/
pofitness.com/
www.workoutmusicvideo.com/

CBD

If you live in an international city, it should have a CBD. New York's CBD is Manhattan, Tokyo has Shinjuku and Paris has La Grande Arche.

In Beijing, the CBD is about 4 square kilometers. The district is getting bigger and its functions are not restricted to business; it provides entertainment, art and culture, shopping and food.



The Place

Photo by Zhang Kaixin



Guomao

Photo by Nan Shan



Olive Garden

not just for business

How much do you know about the C

A CBD is a city, region or country's economic center. It has a high density population, developed transportation, top-class service and costly real estate. It is home to multinational companies and financial organizations, and is a symbol of a city's modernization.

How it began

Early in 1993, the State Council selected the region that would become the CBD – the area from Tonghui River in the south to Chaoyang Lu in the north, and from Xidawang Lu in the east to Dongdaqiao Lu in the west. In 1998, the Municipal Commission of Urban Planning confirmed the area, and it has continued to expand with development.

At that time, there were only two tall buildings, Guomao, the China World Trade Center, and the Citic Building, also called the "Chocolate Building" because of its color.

Working in foreign companies was a dream for most of the people born in the 1970s to early 1980s. The China

World Trade Center was a symbol of the top companies and career achievements in the early 1990s, though few locals knew what it was.

Many new buildings have shot up in Beijing's CBD: the city's most luxurious shopping center, its highest building and buildings of Global Fortune 500s including Motorola and Hewlett-Packard. Many people fulfilled their dream of working in a foreign company or in Guomao.

For many, Guomao remains the key symbol of the CBD even amidst all the new buildings.

Food, drink and entertainment

At lunch time, crowds of workers bolt out of their offices for the area's restaurants. The area's menus are incredibly diverse, but finding seating can be a headache. Sometimes, a meal is not as simple as eating food. You may need to negotiate with clients, find Mr. Right or close friends.

Olive Garden

Located in an office building, this Spanish restaurant draws many people every day. Almost all the comments about the restaurant, except the

price, are praise. Its head chef is the Michelin Star Chef. Busy hours begin around 9 pm, so head there then for a taste of Spanish night life.

Where: 2nd floor, Wantong Center, No 6a, Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie

Open Lunch: 11:30am – 2pm; Dinner: 6:30pm – 10pm

Tel: 5907 0088

Ice bar in Aria Restaurant

The Aria, located in the China World Hotel at Guomao, is one of the most popular places for CBD employees. If you are longing for Northern Europe and want to experience an icy atmosphere, the Aria's newly-built ice bar is a nice choice. Although the ice bar is small, everything in it is made of real ice. The temperature is kept at a steady -5 C. Business will end before Spring arrives, so come soon!

Where: China World Hotel, No 1, Jianguomen Wai Dajie

Open: 11:30 am – midnight

Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 36

Various book bars, cinemas and gyms in the CBD offer different ways to relax. Have a cup of coffee and read a book, watch a film or exercise.

Continued on page 21 ...



Photo by Liu Ying

... continued from page 20



Aria Restaurant

O2Sun

O2Sun, with a cafe bar in SOHO Modern City, supplies plenty of books and tasty coffee. For workers who are too busy to read, an hour or two in O2Sun is a relaxing experience. There are few book stores in the CBD. The book stores which also offer coffee are also rare.

Where: S3001, Building B, SOHO Modern City, 88, Jianguo Lu
Open: 9 am – midnight
Tel: 8580 2789

Gymnasium and spa

The fastest way to relieve stress is to exercise. Go skating in Guomao, visit California Fitness at The Place, play squash in the Kerry Center or play billiards at Derun Tower. You could also play tennis or do yoga.

Most of the office buildings have spas. Fragrant and serene rooms can give you peace, and an after-work trip to a spa can revitalize your energy.

California Fitness

Where: 3rd and 4th floor, The Place, 9, Guanghua Lu
Open: 9 am – 10 pm
Tel: 400 8100 988

Lily Spring Spa

Where: B1, Building D, The

Place, 9, Guanghua Lu
Open: 9 am – 10 pm
Tel: 5129 8066

What do the CBD's regulars think?

1. Which part of the CBD do you dislike most?

2. Which part of the CBD do you like most?

3. Where do you usually go, a restaurant or cafe?

Tang Jianping, freelancer

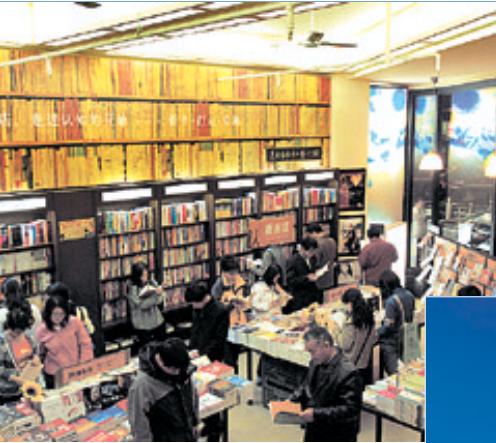
1. I like the smart and modern atmosphere in the CBD; its nights fascinate me a lot. The lights twinkle all around in a very tempting way.

2. The area lacks emotion. Company employees come and go just for work like the CBD is a big shackles.

3. I go to O2Sun several times per week. There are lots of books. Although I sometimes don't buy any, I like to stay there to experience the atmosphere.

Anton Yu, magazine editor

1. The CBD is flourishing. It



O2Sun Bookstore

Photo by Xiao Yi



Photo by Xu Xiaolin



Photo by Zhang Kaixin

makes me feel like I really live in a big city.

2. The bad traffic and soaring prices for everything, like food, parking and rent.

3. I like the view of the Guomao Bridge. I can see lights shining everywhere.

Rock Luo, company assistant manager

1. Everything is convenient here in the CBD. You can eat whatever you want; you can buy any brand of clothing. There are plenty of opportunities to develop your career.

2. The busy lifestyle of the CBD makes me feel exhausted. Sometimes I am tired of wearing a mask in my company or in front of clients.

3. The Kagen Japanese Restaurant at Heqiao Mansion is where I usually go. I like its interior design more than its food.

Li Zhu, a cafe manager

1. It's a good place to run my cafe and earn money. Company staff and foreigners like to have coffee in my store.

2. Some of the office buildings are not reasonably designed. It was really difficult for me to find China World Hotel's entrance when I went to deliver coffee and sandwiches for the first time. I circled the building three times looking for

a door, and finally found a small one next to Starbucks.

3. I usually stay in my cafe, but every week I go skating in Guomao. There are professional coaches, and sometimes kids having skating classes there.

(By Jackie Zhang)



Photo by Shi Li

Pride and Prejudice (2005)

Synopsis

The classic tale of love and misunderstanding unfolds in class-conscious England near the close of the late 18th century. The five Bennet sisters – including spirited and intelligent Elizabeth and young Lydia – have been raised by their mother who has only one purpose: finding each a husband. When a wealthy bachelor takes up residence in a nearby mansion, the Bennets are abuzz. Among the man's sophisticated circle of friends, surely there will be no shortage of suitors for the Bennet sisters. But when Elizabeth meets handsome and – it would seem – snobbish Mr. Darcy, the battle of the sexes is on.



Scene 1:

Assembley Rooms – Meryton Village – Night
(They get up to dance (Dance 2). Lizzie addresses Darcy mostly to distract him from her family)

Lizzie: Do you dance, Mr Darcy?

Darcy: Not if I can help it⁽¹⁾.

(Lizzie, Darcy and Miss Bingley stand in dead silence.)

Scene 2:

Assembley Rooms – Meryton Village – Night
(A little later. Darcy is joined by an exhilarated Bingley.)

Bingley: Upon my word, I've never seen so many pretty girls in my life.

Darcy: You are dancing with the only handsome girl in the room.

Bingley: Oh, she is the most beautiful creature I ever beheld⁽²⁾, but her sister Lizzie is very agreeable.

(They stop at the edge of the dance floor but do not see Lizzie and Charlotte, who are hiding behind a pillar. Lizzie starts to smile.)

Darcy: Perfectly tolerable⁽³⁾, I dare say, but not handsome enough to tempt me.

(Lizzie stops smiling.)

Darcy: (continuing) You had better return to your partner and enjoy her smiles, for you are wasting your time with me.

(Bingley goes off.)

Charlotte: Count your blessings, Lizzie. If he liked you, you'd have to talk to him.

Lizzie: Precisely. As it is, I would not dance with him for all of Derbyshire, let alone the miserable half.

(Charlotte smiles at her friend, but sees nonetheless that she is stung.)



Scene 3:

Assembley Rooms – Meryton Village – Night
(Bingley is standing with Jane, Lizzie, Mrs Bennet and Darcy.)

Bingley: (to Lizzie) Your friend Miss Lucas is a most amusing young woman.

Lizzie: Yes! I adore⁽⁴⁾ her.

Mrs Bennet: It is a pity she is not more handsome.

Lizzie: Mama!

Mrs Bennet: But Lizzie will never admit she is plain. (to Bingley) Of course, it is my Jane who is considered the beauty of the county.

Jane: Oh! Mama, please!

Mrs Bennet: When she was only 15 there was a gentleman so much in love with her that I was sure he would make her an offer. However, he did write her some very pretty verses.

Lizzie: (impatiently) And that put paid to it⁽⁵⁾. I wonder who first discovered the power of poetry in driving away love?

Darcy: I thought that poetry was the food of love.

Lizzie: Of a fine, stout love it may. But if it is only a vague inclination, I am convinced that one poor sonnet will kill it stone dead.

(Darcy looks at Lizzie with a glimmer of interest.)

Darcy: So what do you recommend, to encourage affection?

(Lizzie turns and looks at Darcy square on.)

Lizzie: Dancing. Even if one's partner is barely tolerable.

(She gives him a dazzling smile. Darcy looks startled. He has no idea she heard him. Now it is his turn to blush.)



Vocabulary

1. **not if I can help it:** never.
2. **beheld:** saw or looked at
3. **tolerable:** barely acceptable
4. **adore:** to like very much
5. **that put paid to it:** that was enough
6. **sarcasm:** a sharp and often satirical or ironic utterance designed to cut or give pain
7. **scruples:** motivation deriving logically from ethical or moral principles that govern a person's thoughts and actions
8. **inferiority:** being lower in position
9. **disdain:** complete lack of respect
10. **be prevailed upon:** be persuaded to, requested

(By Li Jing)



Movie of the Week

By Li Jing

Having read Jane Austen and seen the BBC production, I have to say that I adore the Focus Features' version of "Pride and Prejudice".

This sumptuous screen adaptation has much to recommend. It is faithful to the setting and period of the novel, shot entirely on location in the UK.

It pays careful attention to the class distinctions and breathes real life into the romance between Lizzie and Darcy. The younger cast is wonderful, and Keira Knightley does a great job as Lizzie.

Scene 4:

Summer House – Rosings Park – Day

Lizzie: (icy) And what about Mr Wickham?

Darcy: Mr Wickham?

Lizzie: What excuse can you give for your behavior to him?

Darcy: You take an eager interest in that gentleman's concerns!

Lizzie: He told me of his misfortunes.

Darcy: Oh yes, his misfortunes have been very great indeed!

Lizzie: You have ruined his chances, and yet treat him with sarcasm⁽⁶⁾?

Darcy: So this is your opinion of me! Thank you for explaining so fully. Perhaps these offences might have been overlooked, if your pride had not been hurt –

Lizzie: My pride?

Darcy: – by my honesty in admitting scruples⁽⁷⁾ about our relationship. Could you expect me to rejoice in the inferiority⁽⁸⁾ of your circumstances?

Lizzie: And those are the words of a gentleman? From the first moment I met you, your arrogance and conceit, your selfish disdain⁽⁹⁾ of the feelings of others, made me realize that you were the last man in the world I could ever be prevailed upon⁽¹⁰⁾ to marry.

(Darcy recoils, as if slapped. A terrible silence.)

Darcy: Forgive me, madam, for taking up so much of your time.

(He leaves, abruptly. Lizzie watches him stride away, through the rain. What has she done?)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Double trouble

By Zhang Dongya

The most amazing thing I learned when I entered college was that I and my roommate, Sophia, occupying the upper bunk, were born on the same day. We became good friends and sisters with our birth dates in common.

OnE summer vacation, I went to Sophia's hometown, a small village in Guangdong Province. She invited me to have dinner at a small, local restaurant. It was hot that day so we ordered a drink the eatery recommended as a good throat soother to cool off. I noticed a big English word, "lubricate", on the menu.

At that time, I was crazy about the language and paid great attention to all the English words I saw in print. Therefore, I stored this curious English word in my memory and guessed from the Chinese menu that it roughly meant to smooth.

It was not enough for me to just capture new English words and expressions in life, but to use them at every opportunity. Unfortunately, I seldom confirmed the words by looking them up in a dictionary before blurting them out.

On one occasion, our foreign teacher, Christina, had caught the flu and was coughing badly and talking hoarsely. After class, I gave her a pack of throat losanges and said, "Take these, Christina. They will lubricate your throat and make it lubricious."

I was pleased with myself using my two new words but shocked when Christina burst into laughter. I stared at her, totally confused and embarrassed.

Christina picked up the pack of throat tablets and said, "English words are magic. Some words can have a slightly different spelling and mean something quite different."

I remember how astonished I was when I finally turned to my dictionary. The word lubricious derived from lubricate had nothing to do with lubrication and even leaned towards a persevere meaning.

Since then, I never utter strange words without first confirming their meaning in my trusty pocket dictionary. I also found that the word lubricate as used by the restaurant was not totally on the mark.

I now tread carefully around English words and expressions instead of blindly accepting them and using them carelessly.



Photo by Liu Ying



Popularly live the most every day

By Derrick Sobodash

Visiting temple fairs offers foreigners the chance to learn a lot about Chinese culture. They can learn how many kinds of animals can be skewered and eaten, how throwing hoops at frost-bitten parakeets is a great way to win a mentally-stable pet and China popularly lives most.

Given the number of disgruntled and unhappy adults this writer encounters on his daily commute, he would have never guessed that living "the most" is so popular. Thankfully, workers at the Daguanyu temple fair provided large banners to alert him to this often-overlooked fact of life in the Middle Kingdom.

I always said it would be a sad day when machines like Google Translate can beat an unskilled human translator; if the fair's translators are any evidence, that day is here.

The banner's English reads, "China popularly lives most. The signature design is engraved." Looking at the text, it is impossible to guess that this is a folk art stand and the artists design a signature based on his patron's name.

Trying to wrap one's head around how this disaster happened is no easy task. Especially since every word in this sign is a common two-character one found in any dictionary.

For the first part, it appears the translator ignored the fourth character and turned the last two backwards – how else does *juehuo*, a skill or technique, become "lives most"? In the second part, the verb *diaoke* seems correctly translated as "engrave" or "carve," but these verbs are not used to describe the act of designing a signature. An appropriate substitution would be "create."

This sign should be something like "Chinese folk art: signature design." This would be clear, to the point and fairly accurate.

For those curious how Google handled this one, its machine translator turned out "Chinese folk skills, signature design sculpture." It may still be Chinglish, but unlike this sign it is at least partially understandable.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. Involving in so many people

The verb, "to involve," is a transitive verb in this sentence. It means "to have as a necessary part, condition or result; to take in or include." So, you should say, "involving so many people," dropping the word, "in."

2. Tell me what to eat and not eat

This is typical Chinglish. The full expression should be, "Tell me what to eat and what not to eat." Or, for simplicity's sake, "Tell me what to eat and not to eat. The latter "to" is necessary.

3. Two days tournament

If the sentence idea indicates a length of time, you have to say, "Two-day-long tournament." You can't say, "a 20 years girl." It must strictly be, "a 20-year-old girl."

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. Involving in so many people

This grammatically-challenged sentence might give the impression that you have physically entered another body! Painful and unsightly! Being a transitive verb, "to involve," meaning to take in or include, does not require the word "in" in the above example sentence. So, it's out with the "in." The sentence should read, "Involving so many people."

2. Tell me what to eat and not eat

To eat or not to eat ... that is the question. Well, my friend, trust me, it's, "not to eat." The second "to" is necessary to successfully complete this sentence. The full sentence is, "Tell me what to eat and what not to eat," but brevity is always sweeter. Let's simply say, "Tell me what to eat and not to eat."

3. Two days tournament

If you are talking about a length of time, and we are in this sentence, you must say, "Two-day-long tournament." or possibly, "A tournament lasting two days." Pick one you like. Thank you.

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Friday, February 1

**Exhibition****Art Exhibition of Selected Works**

You can enjoy the new and selected works by Feng Linzhang, Hu Yongkai, Song Di and Wang Mingming. Also you can see the modern and super realistic style expressed by young artists Huang Maoqiang, Xin Yi, Yu Jiantao, and Lao Dao.

Where: Beijing Wan Fung Art Gallery, the Imperial Archives, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng

When: Mon-Fri 9 am - 5 pm, Sat-Sun 10 am - 5 pm, until February 28

Admission: Free

Tel: 6523 3320

Huang Jun Digital Images Exhibition

Where: Lobby Gallery, JW Marriott Beijing, China Central Place, 83 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang

When: All day, until March 31

Admission: free
Tel: 8911 5736

Contemporary Oil Painting Exhibition

The Exhibition features Wang Meng and Feng Yu.

Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, Huaweli 1-1E (North of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 9:30 am - 6 pm, until February 29

Admission: Free

Tel: 8779 0461, 8779 0458

Movie**Where Is Madame Catherine?**

Where: Beijing Institut Cervantes, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5879 9666

Upcoming**Red and Black**

Who: Shanghai Dramatic Arts Center
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm, February 19-22
Admission: 100-1,280 yuan

Sunday, February 3

Exhibition**Yi Hui Solo Exhibition**

Where: Fafa Gallery, 4 Yuyang Lu, Houshayu, Shunyi

When: 10:30 am - 8 pm, until February 29

Admission: Free

Tel: 8430 2587

The Other Side of Totality - Wang Luyan

On the four walls of the exhibition space, he uses methods of mechanized composition and style to portray repetitive patterns made by the wheels of a tank.

Where: JoyArt, Zone D, 4 Jiuxian Qiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am - 6 pm, until March 26

Admission: Free

Tel: 8167 9255

New Works - Fortunee Noel Solo Exhibition

Fortunee Noel introduces the human figure of the worker in her urban landscapes on Plexiglass.

Where: Imagine Gallery, 8 Art Studio, Feijiacun Dong Lu, Cuigezhuang, Laiwangyong Dong Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am - 5:30 pm, until March 23

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 5747

Movie**Prete-moi ta main**

Luis Costa (Alain Chabat) is living a charmed life. He is a successful perfume designer known around the office as "Le Nez" (the nose). He is a handsome forty-something and, above all, he's carefree and single. He dates whomever he pleases and happily lives alone.

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcui International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 5 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Stage in March**Concert****Incubus Beijing Concert 2008**

Who: Incubus
Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng
When: 8 pm, March 12
Admission: 400-600 yuan

Rene Liu (Liu Ruoying) Beijing Live 2008 Concert

Who: Rene Liu (Liu Ruoying)
Where: Capital Gymnasium, 54 Zhongguancun Nan Dajie, Haidian
When: 7:30 pm, March 8
Admission: 280-1,680 yuan

Wang Jian Cello Solo Concert

Who: Wang Jian
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, March 23
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

Pipe Organ Music Week - Organ Music Concert of Bach Classics

Who: Beijing Symphony Orchestra
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, March 3
Admission: 50-300 yuan

Pipe Organ Music Week - Concert of Classic and Modern Organ Masterpieces

Who: Lio Clayman and Vene Matthew
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, March 4
Admission: 60-280 yuan

China Philharmonic Orchestra 2008 Musical Festival

Who: Conducted by Yi Zhang
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng
When: 7:30 pm, March 8
Admission: 30-480 yuan

Drama**Amber**

Who: National Theatre Company of China
Where: National Grand Theater Drama Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, March 21-30
Admission: 180-600 yuan

Comedy Servant of Two Masters

Who: Piccolo Theater of Milan
Where: National Grand Theater Drama Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, March 7-9
Admission: 80-480 yuan

Dance**In the Mood for Love**

Who: Shanghai Ballet Group
Where: National Grand Theater Drama Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, March 7-9
Admission: 60-380 yuan

(By Li Jing)

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Saturday, February 2

Returning - Abiao Solo Exhibition

His work contains something quite historical, but still reflects the modern rhythm, filled with elements admired and accepted by both the east and west.

Where: Artist Village Gallery, 1 North of Renzhuang, Songzhuang, Tongzhou

When: Daily 8 am - midnight, until February 29

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6959 8343

Movie**Un Air de Famille**

Named one of the "ten best films of the year" by *Time Out New York*, is a sharp and biting comic drama about a dysfunctional family that gets together for dinner once a week.

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcui International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 5 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Exhibition**Miscellany of the Sichuan Fine Art Institution - 2008 Show**

The 50 participating artists give an overall view of the institution's new, contemporary artist group.

Where: F/2 & F/3, Building 1, 32 Baizhuan Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am - 5 pm, until February 28

Admission: Free

Tel: 5876 9392

New Vista

Where: White Space Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun noon - 6 pm, until March 16

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 2054